Daily Report

Latin America

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UN Data Cites High Infant Mortality Rate

FL0603171590 Bridgetown CANA in English 1610 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Quito, Ecuador, March 6, CANA—Too many Caribbean and Latin American children, including Jamaicans and Trinidadians, are failing to live past their fifth birthday because of childhood diseases which could be prevented if the infants were adequately immunized and otherwise protected, according to a new report prepared by the Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development.

This is despite the fact that Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago already have two of the lowest infant mortality rates in the Caribbean and Latin America, according to the report to be presented at the second conference of Western Hemisphere Parliamentarians on Population and Development here.

"For every 1,000 children born in Latin American and the Caribbean," stated the report, "78 die before reaching their fifth birthday—seven times more than in the U.S. and Canada."

"Children die from a variety of causes, but in Latin America and the Caribbean, most die from diseases that can be prevented."

The diseases that top the list are diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections, vaccine preventable diseases, and malnutrition, the document pointed out. According to UN data cited by the report, about 23 out of every 1,000 children born in Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica do not live past their fifth birthday. Only Puerto Rico with 17 deaths had a lower infant mortality rate among the 23 nations surveyed.

The highest rate in infant death was recorded in Bolivia with 171 per 1,000 live births. Next were Haiti with 170, Peru 122, Honduras 102, Guatemala 99, Nicaragua 93, Ecuador 87, El Salvador 84, and the Dominican Republic 82. Caribbean countries with low infant mortality rates such as Barbados, the Bahamas, Antigua, and Dominica were not included in the survey.

When the conference takes up the issue of child survival in the hemisphere, the parliamentarians from Argentina, Brazil, Antigua, Barbados, Chile, Jamaica, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Paraguay, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname and other states are to discuss how they can take effective measures to lower the rate of infant death.

In addition to extending immunization campaigns and improving health care delivery systems in the region, the report suggested that family planning programmes can help by introducing the "concept of birth spacing and by reducing pregnancies among women likely to suffer complications."

About six cabinet ministers from Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and Antigua are attending the four day conference which is sponsored by the Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development with assistance from the United Nations Population Fund, the World Bank, and the United Nations Development Programme.

Cuba

Havana Notes U.S. Effort on 'Anti-Cuban' Draft

FL0603190890 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] The United States has lobbied intensely and placed strong pressures in the last few hours at the 46th conference of the Human Rights Commission to obtain support for its anti-Cuban draft. U.S. efforts exerted since the opening of the Geneva meeting on 29 January have been aimed at getting the commission to approve a resolution, with the consent of Western delegations, regarding human rights in Cuba. The text sponsored by Washington was submitted on 26 February based on point 12 of the agenda regarding human rights violations anywhere in the world. The draft was modified by the United States in an attempt to make it more acceptable to the rest of the delegations. The new version, which will be put to the to vote today, does not show substantial changes in its marked anti-Cuban line.

Roa Kouri on Draft Voting

FL0703033390 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0055 GMT 7 Mar 90

["Excerpt" of a statement by Vice Minister of Foreign Relations Raul Roa Kouri to Radio Havana Cuba on the "Exclusivo" program on 6 March, place not given—recorded]

[Text] In this vote, the draft received 19 votes in favor, 12 against, and 12 abstentions. The draft was therefore approved by the Commission. In our explanation of the vote following the vote, or after the voting, we made it very clear what our interpretation of this voting was. First, it must be said that for about a month, if not more, the United States has been exerting brutal, all kinds of brutal, pressure against the countries which are members of the Commission, especially, of course, the Third World countries which are members of this commission.

And in addition to this brutal pressure, [changes thought] which also implies—this is not a rhetorical problem—it implies offering or withholding loans from starving countries, countries that truly need these loans to survive. However, in spite of all this, the United States only obtained 19 votes. And it is important for this to be known, because of these 19 votes, apart from the U.S. vote, there were nine votes that corresponded to their allies—that is, the NATO members, the members of the Western group, which naturally are tied to the United States—and 10 votes that corresponded to countries from other regions.

However, what is very clear [rephrases] I should say here that these countries that voted in favor that are from other regions, are countries that have been led by the nose like bulls to vote against Cuba. However, what is significant is that there were 24 countries, which is more than half of the member countries of the Commission, that refused to vote in favor of the U.S. draft. Twelve of them voted against it, and 12 more abstained. Those that abstained did so because they could not vote against the United States, simply because of the threats, and their economic dependence on the United States is such that they did not dare, they could not, vote against them. But they abstained, which constitutes a dignified position, a position of refusing to accept the U.S. diktat, obviously.

Now, the Mexican Government's position must be highlighted; as always it was an honorable and truly exceptional position. The Mexican representative to the Commission explained his vote before the voting with extraordinary dignity. He explained how and why Mexico, in spite of being one of those that participated in the writing the very delicate writing of Decision 113 of the Commission, could not at that time do anything but oppose the American draft. He simply went further; he wanted absolutely nothing to do with it; he disavowed Decision 113.

Government Eases Restrictions on Travel to U.S.

FL0703132790 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] The Cuban Government has eased travel restrictions for older Cubans wishing to travel to the United States to visit close relatives. The new regulation lowers the age limit. Previously, it was 65 years for men and 60 for women. Now, they will be set at 55 for men and 50 years for women. The new policy also allows visas for visits to more distant relatives such as cousins or grandparents. Some analysts view the decision as a way for Cuba to receive more U.S. dollars.

Havana Protests Panamanian Delegation at ECLA

FL0603131590 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Cuba has protested the presence of a delegation of the current Panama Government at an experts' meeting of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean [ECLA] which opened in La Paz, Bolivia. During the first session of high-level governmental ECLA experts, Cuban delegate Jorge Garcia expressed, on behalf of our country, the opposition to the presence in the meeting of representatives of a government illegally imposed on Panama by the United States.

Nicaraguan Transition Period Seen as 'Somber'

FL0603201090 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. aspirations are not only limited to the electoral triumph achieved by the National Opposition Union [UNO]. Having achieved this phase, Washington aims at obtaining the dismantling of the Sandinist People's Army or its conversion into a civilian police. In two words, the United States attempts to use in Nicaragua, although through other means, the same pattern it

applied in Panama. In the isthmian nation, with the strategic goal of perpetuating its military presence in the canal, Washington's tactical goals were to overthrow the previous government, dismantle the Panama Defense Forces, and impose an administration totally docile to White House orders.

In Nicaragua, if the history of the last 11 years is analyzed, it is obvious that the U.S. goal has been to remove the Sandinists from the government, dismantle its people's army, and finally, without any doubt, erase in the Central American country any trace of Sandinism. Nicaragua also falls within the strategic domination program planned by Washington for the entire Central American region, including the isthmus.

Which pawns has Washington moved in its favor? First, with a greater or lesser resistance, all the governments of Central America, including the superdemocratic Costa Rican President Oscar Arias. Without exception, all have aligned themselves with the U.S. double-standard policy. They have verbally favored peace in Central America but, in fact, have done nothing substantive to achieve it. The famous peace agreements which have been signed have been nothing but a dream and experience demonstrates this.

No Central American government, except the Sandinist, really confronted the United States for its compliance with the agreements on the demobilization of the contras. Far from this, the contras continue to be an important pawn in the U.S. political chess game, and they are used today with the UNO to achieve the dismantling of the Sandinist Army.

The contras are now conditioning the surrender of weapons to the turning of the Sandinist Army into a civilian police. We believe this stand leads to two roads. If it takes place, it means the virtual end of Sandinism. If this condition is not accepted and Washington insists on it, the period of government transition appears to be very somber.

Castro Makes Closing Remarks at FEU Meeting

FL0603210090 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 0159 GMT 6 Mar 90

["Excerpts" of President Fidel Castro's closing remarks at the 11th expanded National Council of the Federation of University Students, FEU, on 4 March at the Council of State headquarters in Havana—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Castro] ...listening to the ideas, suggestions, and solutions you have presented and the maturity and revolutionary spirit with which you have analyzed the problems. I also believe that many problems have been studied in depth. Like Felipe [not further identified] said, not all the problems have been studied. However, this must not become an issue to be concerned about because I believe that we must maintain this contact. Lately, we have kept in contact with the various activities of the youths and the FEU [Federation of University Students] and we must maintain systematic contact.

The problems we have not resolved here or the concerns that may remain pending for a school like the School of Biology or the School of Microbiology....[changes thought] I do not think the School of Biology will have too many problems because we have already begun building the new School of Biology. The building that currently houses the School of Biology will be turned into an excellent addition for the Calixto Garcia School of Medicine. In other words, we could say we do not know whether we are building a new School of Biology or a medical science institute. The building is now being converted into a medical science institute next to the hospital and the new building will be the School of Biology, which will be alongside the vanguard centers that the country has in that area where the chemical synthesis center will also be located. The name we have given it is the Pharmaceutical Industry Research Institute. Is that right Rosa Elena [Rosa Elena Simeon, president of the Cuban Academy of Sciences]?

[Simeon] It is the pharmacy center.

[Castro] It is the Research Institute....

[Simeon, interrupting] It is called the research center.

[Castro] The Research Center for....

[Simeon, interrupting] It is called the Research Center for the Synthesis of the Pharmaceutical Industry.

[Castro] It is called the synthesis of the industry?

[Simeon] It is called the synthesis of the pharmaceutical industry.

[Castro] How long ago did you decide to give it that name?

[Simeon] Three years ago.

[Castro] It is called the synthesis of the pharmaceutical industry.

[Unidentified speaker] It is a center of chemical pharmacy.

[Simeon] It is a chemical pharmacology center.

[Castro] It is a chemical pharmacology center. This building will also be close by and it will be a combination of things. It also needs a biologist. The building will have chemists and biologists because it is a combination of biology and chemical synthesis for many of those medications. They also have microbiologists.

Unfortunately, not everyone was able to speak. However, we promise you that any problem discussed here that remains pending will be analyzed. Any remaining

concern that you know of or any new concern that may emerge should be conveyed to the FEU, and we will analyze it.

Fortunately, we have established some criteria, some ideas, although not everything is complete. Now we have to think about everything we have discussed. There are more complex problems that need to be defined, those things that are related to the development of thought, the development of our country's revolutionary ideas, the economy. I think we are aware that there are still many things we must think about, reflect upon, and work on, but we have also encountered many solutions here. Many things have been clarified. These things have been discussed in detail, one by one, even the German language, and we discovered that yes, we are right, based on the plans we have developed. Now we understand and clearly see those plans, what their purpose is. We have also seen other necessities. It is possible that other schools may emerge.

We have clearly seen the matter of location where we have had concerns and doubts. We have discovered new things, such as the magnitude of the plans of the INDER [National Institute for Sports, Physical Education, and Recreation]. I do not mean to imply that the INDER's plans cannot be fulfilled. I think that they are feasible based on the things that we discussed here. We also became aware of certain proportions. We have no fears. No one will be left out.

One of the concerns with which many of us came here was that we will have to maintain certain limits. We will have to create new careers, expand enrollments in certain areas without bloating these areas. We will train the comrade as completely as possible and life will teach him more. What are the possibilities? This type of concern has been addressed; it has been dissipated at meetings. We see long-term results in practically all careers in 10 years. We will continue to think about all this so that we will not have to make restrictions, so that we can continue to train people but each time we will further associate university training with the country's development plans, the country's economic and social development plans.

What is education? It is social development, of course. We have dedicated almost 300,000 professionals from several levels to social development. I say it is almost 300,000, but it could be 280,000 or 285,000. This is a truly impressive statistic.

We practically have one professor or one teacher for every 40 inhabitants at each level in this country. I would dare to ask if any other country, regardless of its level of development, has this same ratio. [taps table three times] We do not see it as inadequate use of our work force. A large number of these professionals are women. It is a very rational, beneficial use of our human resources which promises us what we can already see, what we can see in you. You would not have been possible without this; without the development of education. Thanks to this, we also have a productive force. We can train all our technicians. This system also produces the well-being of the society, not just by manufacturing shirts or producing food. The well-being of society is produced by education. The society's standard of living is raised by education.

These people are the producers of an extraordinarily valuable service. You cannot underestimate the value of a teacher's assistant, a trainer, a day-care center educator. How can you do this to her? How can we underestimate the work of someone who teaches children? [Words indistinct] We do not underestimate her work. On the contrary, we value that work. We want to introduce that work at the university level. How can one underestimate the work done in our secondary schools, in our preuniversity schools, in our technical vocational schools for the training of skilled workers for production, or in other schools, like the special schools, trade schools. How can one underestimate the work done by the centers of higher education?

Yesterday, as I was trying to convey this idea to you, I said that all this is possible if we increase productivity, and if we free human resources to develop the well-being of the people, not through material production but through services that a society can offer its citizens. This is invaluable. Not all well-being comes from doctors' services.

I sometimes say that we have some dreadful methods for measuring social production, the gross social product [producto social global]. Production, the work of our almost 300 [words indistinct] gross social product. What kind of method is this for measuring the people's work? What kind of a method is this for measuring society's production? I have protested this many times. I cannot believe that the work of more than half-a-million people is worthless. I cannot believe that the statistics representing the gross social product are meaningless. Only the statistics for the production of underwear, undershirts, and shoes have meaning.

The work of our almost 40,000 doctors is another matter. Almost 40,000 doctors contribute nothing to our gross social product. The same applies to tens of thousands of nurses and mid-level technicians. When others compare the gross social product of other countries to Cuba's, all this is worth nothing. The capitalists do the counting and then add it all up. On more than one occasion, I have said that they should add the two things together. The development of the country is not just based on manufacturing underwear. [slaps table once]

I asked myself, what is a pair of underwear worth? According to this method of computation, a pair of underwear is worth more than a heart transplant. A heart transplant involves dozens of doctors, nurses, workers, a lot of people [slaps table once] and it does not contribute anything to the gross social product. It does not count while a pair of underwear is at lease worth one peso to the gross social product. This is a reality. Now that we

are discussing these problems, I ask once again what kind of response we can give to this in a rational manner based on our concept of the economy.

All these services are a very valuable product. What our artists produce on television or radio does not add anything to the gross social product. As a rule, all these services, such as sports, add nothing. None of our services add anything. Almost a million people work in the service fields and their work contributes nothing but the people appreciate their services. This is not only said when someone has a sick child [words indistinct]. They can have peace of mind knowing that their child will receive the maximum amount of attention. That is why it is very valuable.

We can continue to increase services [words indistinct]. I gave you an example of this in the sugarcane industry and the use of sugarcane combines, which freed hundreds of thousands of people to work in other tasks of the economy. We could not think about having 30,000 professors and teachers because there would not be anyone left to cut cane, and (?I'm talking about) physical education. This is impossible if a nation is underdeveloped. In a capitalist society, it is impossible, and if the society is capitalist and underdeveloped, it is even more impossible. [slaps table once]

This phenomena has also been discussed in our meetings. We have problems and concerns which we do not hide. On the contrary, we are constantly discussing them. We discuss what we could obtain. A country that does what we are doing in education, health, sports, every field, cannot be called a country with big problems. What we fear is that more serious circumstances could arise. With minimal resources, we have attained more things than ever. The problem is that this minimum could get lower.

What other country is working on the same programs we are working on—construction and development of universities, combined with the programs we have on trade schools, special schools, polyclinics? No capitalist or socialist country is doing this. It is true. The capitalists do not want to, and are not interested in doing so. They invest their money in other things, in who knows how many mansions, small palaces, luxuries, etc. The others do not do this because they neither want to, nor can they. In some countries, like Brazil, there are millions of abandoned children. They have a great number of beggars, people without shoes, ill people, an infant mortality that would horrify anyone. That is the general situation in Latin America. That is our situation. We ourselves have discussed our problems but they remain relative as long as we continue to do what we can. [pounds table four times]

The problems that concern us are not the ones that we have, but the ones that we could have from situations, from great difficulties that can arise from the matters that have been analyzed here.

In reality, we are doing all these things already, and we can do a lot more. I am convinced that we can do more in the area of construction, like the construction of apartments, and other things, based on the (?progress) we have made in the construction materials industry. We can work normally. We can do whatever we want to do, literally. We have the work force. We have 37,000 mini-brigade members. That is one of things that began the war here just in Havana. The theoreticians declared war on this. They declared war against it. They presented it as incompatible with the system of economic administration and planning and, thus, the masses could do nothing. The same thing happened with volunteer work. They said volunteer work was incompatible because it was not really a revolutionary idea.

Havana could mobilize 100,000 workers of the 800,000 workers it has and no one would notice. We could do this by being a little rational. How many do we have now? We have 37,000 minibrigade members. We could have as much as 40,000 or 45,000. How many of you are there? If you help them in one way or another, on a weekend, or even just two or three hours a week, if everyone did this, what would the masses not be capable of doing? [pounds table once] We have much more human potential than material resources to [words indistinct]. Our limit is in the area of materials. We could build another city like this. Those 37,000 workers are always waiting for material. Has the bulldozer arrived? Have the concrete blocks arrived? Have the other things arrived? They wait for those products that we are increasing each day. To renounce this would be to renounce development. [pounds table once] The construction of apartments was linked to the disappearance of the minibrigade movement. Construction was reduced to 4,000 apartments.

This year we plan to build 15,000 apartments and we want to be certain of this. We want the party, the people's government, the chiefs of the mini-brigades to tell us in plenty of time what they need. We want all the little details because sometimes they are small finishing details, something that is missing, which stops construction.

In regard to cement paint, I have a factory that can produce up to 100,000 [unit of measure not given]. We cannot....[changes thought] We have asked that some white cement be exported because it is impossible to use it all right away. I have a new factory there near Siguaney which could provide paint for hundreds of thousands of houses in a year, if you used cement paint. These are new resources that have been created.

As I was saying, we want to build 15,000 apartments. We also want to repair 10,000 apartments. The problem is the concept, not just of constructing, but of reconstructing and repairing the existing homes here in the capital alone. If everything progresses normally, next year, in 1991, we will build 20,000 apartments and we will repair 10,000 or 15,000.

These are programs that no one else in the world is applying. Pass through Latin America and you will find construction at a standstill everywhere. Here on each corner there is construction of a doctor's office or a building. The mini-brigades are working on more than 2,000 buildings. This includes the Pan-American Game buildings. If everything progresses normally, they should be finished this year.

Possibilities of this type have been created. The possibilities in this regard are very good but we have to get used to thinking about always working with two variables—this variable and the other one. We cannot allow ourselves to continue with our social development. [sentence as heard] That is what we wish. We want to continue with our economic and social development. It will be hard [words indistinct] because of reasons we are familiar with, but we will maintain the economic aspect of it, whether we want to build 15,000 or 20,000 apartments. If we suddenly have to stop building for one, two, three, or four years, that is the price we will have to pay in order for the revolution to survive. This is the price we will have to pay to save the revolution.

We might have to reduce some production, but not of food. We will try not to touch the production of food or medicine, but if we had to say that we are going to live with the same clothes for one, two, three, or four years, and we will make essential items only for newborns and for those who are growing, then that is the price we will have to pay to save the country's revolution. We are prepared if in fact this is the price that must be paid.

Then we might not need 4,000 tons of cement. With 1.28 million or 1.30 million tons, we would be able to continue our development plans. The things that use the most cement are the social projects. The dams, canals, causeways, bridges, the industries we construct do not consume the most cement, neither do the hotels that we are constructing. For this we have to invest in a lot of other things.

Everyone knows that if we unfortunately had to temporarily stop the social development projects we are working on, to conserve what we have, it would be enough because we have much more than others do. Of course, we do not want this to happen. It would hurt us a lot. We have invested more than $100 million during the past two and a half years in the construction materials industry. It would be a sad thing not to be able to use it. Now that we have increased our capacity to manufacture bricks, cement blocks, tile, all these things, steel reinforcement rods, rocks, sand, to reduce this by half or three-fourths of our production, it would be a sad thing, right? However, if this is the price of saving the revolution, then we have to be mentally prepared to do so.

Will there be beggars? No, there will be no beggars because absolutely no one will be forgotten. We will distribute what we have among everyone, [taps table twice] what we have.

If we need raw material or the factory must stop, then we will stop the factory. If we cannot transport the workers to another location, then we will tell them to work for two or three days then go home, study, read, relax, relax [repeats himself]. Don't worry. We will convert a misfortune that makes us shut down a factory into rest, study, and lessons. If it happens that we only work three days a week, if a special period occurs during peacetime, it is possible that we may have to close three-fourths of the cement factories, the one that uses the damp process, which uses more fuel. Then we may have to close the factory that uses the dry process in Mariel or the Karl Marx factory, which also uses the dry process. We might have to close the factories that use the dry process to produce cement with half the amount of fuel. We might have to close a factory in the eastern part of the country.

I want to say that if a special period does arise where a complete factory closes down, what will we do with the workers? We will give them other activities. They may work in agriculture or they may dig trenches, because all these special periods are always accompanied by certain dangers. The workers may be resting [words indistinct] or they may work half of the time.

I am telling you about these ideas because we are thinking a lot about all these types of circumstances. [Words indistinct] end of any problem. If our fuel availability is cut in half, our strategy is essentially to know what we do with those six million [unit of measure not specified] instead of two million. This would affect transportation [words indistinct]. We have to have an idea of how to distribute our electricity. We do not care when the light gets turned off; we need to know how long that light is on and what our quota of electricity is.

In the most efficient plants, we would save electricity, especially, if we shut down part of the cement factory. A sugar center would not be shut down. Agriculture also would not be detained, neither would the industries that produce external resources for the country. We would also not shut down new industries that are being constructed for this purpose. Tourism plans would also not be stopped.

One of the things we would have to examine is the role of the university. How will we maintain the universities during such a special period? That is one of the very interesting tasks for which we have to have a response because we will have to keep training people as much as possible. I think that during a special period, we might even train an excess number of personnel. The best solution then might be to work half the week in many things, not everything, but in many sectors. We would share everything we have. It will not be a situation where some people have things and others do not. We would continue to share everything.

I am trying to convey to you the ideas we are constantly thinking about. We are working on what the country would have to do. The most serious problem we could face is in energy. Our levels of energy depends on 12,000

tons of oil. If this level suddenly drops from 12,000 to 10,000, then we will have to work with 10,000. If we suddenly only have 8,000 tons, then we will have to work with 8,000 tons. If the amount drops to 6,000, then we have to work with 6,000. If we only have 5,000 tons, then we have to work with 5,000 tons and if there are only 4,000 tons of oil, then we will have to work with 4,000. Our strategy, however, would always be the same in this regard. This is what could happen during a special period.

If a special period does not occur and we can work normally, then we can continue. Our prospects would really not be bad from an economic point of view, from a development point of view. There are other dangers which I have not mentioned here but for which we have been preparing for many years, in case a misunderstanding is created with the imperialists and they say: This is it. It is time to eliminate these damned Cubans. [pounds table once]

Well, we will see. [pounds table once] This is also an unsolvable situation. In the end, the imperialists would have to recognize their mistake. Nevertheless, we don't want them to make a mistake because we do not have to be the reeducators of the governments of [words indistinct]. That is very costly. It would cost our country a lot but it would also cost them dearly in the measure that we are strong, that our people are all united, all the people are [words indistinct].

That is why whoever today makes a fifth column is a dangerous enemy of the Cuban nation and socialism. The end of socialism, the end of the revolution, would be the end of the Cuban nation. Do not forget it. What happened in Panama would be an act of stupidity. What happened in Puerto Rico would also be another act of stupidity. The historic struggle of more than 100 years would be lost, since the Cubans began fighting against annexationist thought [words indistinct] and they were finally able to prevent the empire from taking power, which someone described as something that would fall like ripe fruit. This century-and-a-half struggle would be lost.

They might try but they will not be able to trample it because they cannot. [pounds table once] It has taken them weeks to take a city, where there was no revolution, where there was no Panama City, where there was no revolutionary awareness, where there were few men who were poorly managed. [Words indistinct] gave the Yankees an idea of what they will find here. We are aware of this danger but they do not frighten us. They do not frighten us [repeats himself]. Among other things, I previously said that we are not just defending Cuba. We are defending many other things besides Cuba. In Cuba, we would be defending this country's history, from the history of Hatuey the indian—I'm going back further—until the present. As Felipe said, it is a great honor and a privilege for this generation, you, and us to defend all of this. We are sure that we will successfully defend it, although we prefer peace first and we prefer to continue to work in peace. I would say that as of today, as of now, right now, this country is preparing itself. That is why I say that the soldiers who were on internationalist missions in Angola have to complete them in Cuba.

For those of us who have been here on this side of the room, we have also had the privilege of listening to you and hearing your expressions, your ideas. You must feel strengthened in your convictions and in your ideas.

The revolution is something that must be defended even though you may be in the minority. When we began the revolution, we were an insignificant minority but the ideas progressed and became the revolutionary ideas of an entire people, your parents, and you, even those of you who had not yet been born. No one gave us this revolution. No one imposed this revolution upon us. No one defended it for us. We made it ourselves. We defended it ourselves and today we defend it ourselves, exclusively. Of course, we have international solidarity but the weapons, cannons, tanks, mines, and all kinds of weapons that defend our revolution are ours. On top of that, the people that defend the revolution are ours.

I was saying that those of us who have this conviction feel strengthened and we are not the minority. We are far from being the minority. We are the immense majority and we must consolidate that majority, defend it, intensify it. The peoples grow during difficult times, even some that just speak garbage. They try to criticize our problems. We have always had the habit of talking, of criticizing. This is the way we talk. As the comrade said, we must debate, have arguments, reasons, and if we are mistaken, we know how to say we are mistaken. We know how to say this happened, that happened, or whatever. We have absolutely nothing to hide.

If there is something that can be rectified, then it should be rectified. Do not think that we are perfect. We are very far from being perfect and we should know all our defects, all our weak points to fill those gaps, to strengthen ourselves in every sense. Whoever says that errors exit is right. We will not deny it. Tell us what they are and we will be the first to admit them. We will discuss the problems, the errors, whatever, and attempt to resolve them. Who can fight against that type of morale? We have the highest morale to discuss with whoever wants to say that we are isolated. They say we are isolated. We are less isolated than ever. We are with the people. They say we are alone. We can be alone. I do not know what kind of solitude they are talking about because at the beginning of the revolution we were much more alone. We had no relations with any Latin American government. We had nothing. We can say, yes we are alone, but we are invincible. [pounds table once] We can tell this to those people who have these concerns. We will defend ourselves with the majority. We do not need to defend ourselves with the minority. We will defend ourselves with the majority. That is why it is so important to have that morale, that capacity to debate whatever topic you want to debate, any topic.

I know that we went through the October crisis, Giron, [words indistinct] reacts. We should know how to distinguish between those who are counterrevolutionaries and those who are not, but we should not give the enemy tools to use against us today. Do not echo their slander. Do not repeat the garbage, which is what the enemy wants to convey, because they want to weaken the morale of the revolution. They want to weaken the revolution. That is why it is so important today, why it is such an exceptional period. We are not in a special period, but we are in an exceptional period that requires us to keep our guard very high, to discuss, and everything.

These are our convictions and we can say that these convictions have been strengthened by our meeting with you. If we leave with 20 or 30 percent more enthusiasm, more energy, more willingness, more decision to struggle, then that is what we have received from this meeting with you. We have learned many things from this meeting. You yourselves have seen, in the process of dialogue and analysis, how solutions, solutions, solutions [repeats himself] to many problems have been reached. Now we have a program. The next one is almost complete from the previous meeting. Now we have to finish this one by the time the congress is held.

If the congress is in December, I do not know if we will have to meet beforehand. If the congress is in December, we still have 10 months and I do not think it would be a good idea to go 10 full months without having to make any kind of analysis of our work, this situation, this very important front. We have 300,000 students. We are not just talking about regular students, who number more than 100,000. We are talking about the other students, the workers who study. Everyone has influence. You have to extend yourselves because you are an important force, a fundamental force, a pillar of the revolution and we have to observe how our work progresses in this area. It is possible that we may be able to meet in the middle of year and during the congress. We cannot let 10 months pass—it is the final period of your mandate—without closely following all this, how our programs are progressing, whether new things need to be reported to FEU leaders, what kinds of problems are occurring. Once again, we will be able to check everything that we are discussing and some things that we did not have a chance to discuss.

It also proves that this method of analysis, as in many other things, is an efficient method, an efficient method [repeats himself].

If we were to compare the last meeting to this one, we would find that there is a great difference. If we compare the number of problems that existed back then and the ones we have today we will find that many problems have been solved. When we go back and study the little plan you must draft according to what we have discussed here, we will see how much more there is to be done. All this forces us to work; it makes sure that we do not forget the problems. At that time we will again analyze the situation and I am sure we will say that progress has been made. I am sure many of you will want to talk about the things you are doing and how your ideas and plans are progressing; how progress has been made to ensure the fulfillment of each and every issue we have discussed here. This forces us to make sure the plan is fulfilled. We have done this on other fronts; we did it with all the hospitals in the capital city and with other things. Good results have been achieved. I am also [words indistinct] valuable experience, and we could add that it has been a fruitful meeting.

I am not going to talk more about international matters. I have already spoken to you about all those problems. You must closely follow the development of the current situation. The development of all that is happening will give you the clear picture. This does not mean that we feel we have lost. We are now confronting a triumphalist capitalism, a triumphalist imperialism. However, we know how to see beyond that. We will wait and see whether that world will have a long life, whether it is the empire that Hitler attempted to build to last 1,000 years. Let us see how many years this will last. Euphoria does not last that long these days. We still do not know how much they will reap from the problems of socialism; we still do not know when the contradictions, all sorts of contradictions, will begin to emerge. Interimperialist, intercapitalist contradictions will begin to emerge because all the big economic powers will begin to demand their new share of the world. This was something Lenin talked about frequently. Economic powers have developed in Asia and Europe. Now contradictions among these powers will begin to emerge and we must observe the phenomena.

That is it for the most important aspects. I believe that I have nothing more to say except to remind you of what Felipe [not further identified] said about tomorrow. It is not midnight yet, we are five minutes away from midnight, and today we recall the La Cubre explosion. That was such a brutal incident that it will be impossible for us to forget it. When the first explosion was heard we were in the building that today houses the Minfar [Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces]. The explosion shook the whole city. We saw the smoke and immediately knew that the ship carrying the weapons we had bought in Belgium....[changes thought] Back then we did not want to buy weapons from the socialist countries because we did not want to feed Yankee excuses. What was worse was that the ship was sabotaged. We wondered whether a box had fallen, whether something had happened. Later, I personally loaded several boxes of different types of grenades and ammunition—boxes that had been on the ship—into a plane and dropped them from 1,000 meters; the grenades and ammunition did not explode. The theory of an explosion caused by a box that had fallen was invalidated. There was no doubt that a bomb had been planted. What else could the CIA have done? Let us receive the weapons? They planted a bomb. They must have bribed someone when the ship was being loaded at a port in Belgium and the bomb exploded while

the ship was being unloaded. But that was not all. Two bombs had been planted and when hundreds of persons were on the dock helping the injured, the second bomb exploded. More than 100 persons were killed; the bomb killed workers, soldiers, and residents of the area.

This occurred during the early days of the revolution. A tremendous ideological debate was still going on in the country. We saw the aggression clearly and we knew they had done it. It was a difficult moment; many things were yet to happen: the mercenary invasion, the October crisis, and what not, and it was at that time that we said the word. All I am going to add will be: Socialism or death! [Crowd shouts: "Or death!"] Fatherland or death, we will win! [Crowd shouts: "We will win!]

Espin Gives Opening Speech at FMC Congress

FL0603213790 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Defending socialism, economic efficiency, proposals and positive experiences, and particularly the role of Cuban women at the present time, are some of the issues the delegates discussed during the first day of the fifth congress of the FMC [Federation of Cuban Women]. The need to defend socialism because for women it means freedom, social justice, and security for the education and development of their children was the essence of the opening speech of the fifth congress of the FMC given by its president Vilma Espin.

[Espin] "We have arrived at our fifth congress repeating our unrenounceable fidelity to the principles of socialism, with the renovating enthusiasm that the revolution constantly radiates, with the joy of having with us Fidel, our dear commander in chief [crowd chants: Fidel!] our dear commander in chief, guiding the progress of our work with skillful hands, with the unyielding firmness with which 30 years ago we set out to win a better future, marching with firm steps on the path we ourselves chose and are building day by day."

[Announcer] Vilma stated that for Cuban women, socialism or death is not just one more slogan; it is the living expression of an unrenounceable determination. She referred to the fact that 30 years of socialism eloquently show that the historic leap made in the situation of Cuban women—in the participation of women in the economic, political, social, and cultural life of our country—constitutes a revolution within another revolution, as Fidel once said.

She supported this with figures: 38.7 percent of the labor force in our country is female. We are also 58.3 percent of the technicians in the country. Women are also 55.3 of university graduates, and more than 60 percent of the family doctors. Women also predominate in education, in the financial world, and now 48 percent of researchers are female.

[Espin] "As can be seen, the job horizon of Cuban women has been transformed. The political determination and the measures taken as a consequence permit equal opportunity and possibilities in the area of work. The job stability of the working women in this period has exceeded 95 percent; that is, annually, out of every 100 women who begin their working life, only five leave their jobs."

[Announcer] The president of the FMC also discussed the quality of the process at the base level leading up to the congress. She said that the vast majority of the proposals related to discipline, being exacting, and the organization to use resources optimally, and she proposed an in-depth analysis of the subjective factors that still hold women back and the role the FMC must play to eliminate these factors.

At another point in her speech, Vilma referred to the incorporation of Cuban women into defense. She recalled how women were present at Giron [Bay of Pigs] and during the October [missile] crisis, and how today they are integrated into the Territorial Troops Militias, women's voluntary military service, our Armed Forces, and the Youth Labor Army.

Vilma also discussed the current international situation and she repeated the need to prepare ourselves for the worst contingency on the economic level, created as a consequence of severe restrictions in supplies, especially of essential raw materials, food, and fuel, so we will be able to endure under the most adverse economic situations and continue our development.

[Espin] "Thus we are proposing to you that we hold our congress with a different program from the one we had foreseen so most of the time will be devoted to speeches on the current and future work of the FMC in the municipalities, towns, factories, and defense zones; aimed at creating new products; multiplying the food plans; sharpening our ingenuity in the search for solutions to the supply difficulties that could occur; participating in the most important development programs; supporting priority plans in whatever ways necessary; and with the in-depth ideological work to be carried out with the entire populace, to prepare them for any contingency, so our organization will fulfill the role that corresponds with it in this transcendental moment the revolution is experiencing."

[Announcer] Finally, the president of the FMC expressed the determination of all the delegates to this fifth congress to keep very firm and high the banners of socialism.

[Espin] "[Crowd chants: Fidel!] Fully aware, we have chosen socialism no matter what may happen. We are ready to confront resolutely however many dangers and obstacles may come up in these difficult and very important times for our revolution, led by our glorious party, the pride and vanguard of a communist people, commanded by Fidel. Long live the Communist Party of Cuba! [Crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Long live Fidel! [Crowd

shouts: "Viva!"] Socialism or death, our country or death, we will win! [applause]"

Castro Comments on Day Care

FL0703034790 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Excerpts] In summary, during today's session the delegates spoke about their experiences in the country's construction work, agriculture, and health services. For example, speakers were delegates who are building cattle-raising complexes in the Camaguey milk-producing region, cooperative workers under the Turquino Plan, and family doctors. Points concerning the capacities and operation of day-care centers were also very much debated in today's session. [passage omitted]

[Begin Castro recording] Since we have institutions as good as the ones we have, I think that a greater effort should have been made to solve these problems. We have the polyclinics in all those places. In Havana for example, these polyclinics are open 24 hours a day. The polyclinics in Havana—there are between 70 and 80 of them, 74 or 76—are moving toward a 24-hour workday. They leave a duty shift there. How many crazy things have we done in the name of an absurd rigidity?

A short time ago I was at a clinic; a polyclinic opened I do not remember where, maybe in Guanabacoa; somewhere we opened a polyclinic. We visited the various places. We talked about the X-ray machine they were going to begin installing and [eight-second break in reception]. I asked: So every time someone has to go to the polyclinic he cannot go to work? Every time a child has to come to have his teeth examined at the dentistry clinic, he cannot go to school? So it was then that I said: Do you know everything we have invented not to have to work, to hinder the work [words indistinct] [applause], to hinder work and hinder school work. So I suggested to them the idea of scheduling some of the people at one time and the rest at another time so the children could go after school. And they are doing this, and the world did not come to an end. On the contrary, the world became a bit better, a little bit.

And in the polyclinics they have reached these opinions. It is not that they have all the workers there 24 hours a day, but there is a duty shift. Imagine with the staff that a day-care center has. And they pared down the staff; it was inflated. Now there seem to be more because the family doctors are on the rolls of the polyclinic but they are doing work that has nothing to do with the polyclinic. But with this tremendous force—any of these polyclinics has 40 or 45 family doctors—one of them is on duty at a given time, and they have everything ready to be able to take X-rays during the early hours of the morning and do things during the early hours of the morning, all this with a very small effort and the same staff. The polyclinics will be open here in Havana 24 hours a day with the same staff. But we did not do this before. The family doctors themselves have a moving shift. I do not know what they called it; what is it called? Ah, sliding. A sliding shift. Once a week they change their office hours so the workers can go. How many things like this can we do? Is this not practical? Why have we invented so many things that conspire against education, against work, against the facilities people should have to solve their problems?

I am sure that if we go into these things in more depth, but rigidity, rigidity, rigidity, and at seven at night the day-care center closes. [sentence as heard] There are 13 hours, we could add—15 or 16 hours—to a service the country could provide to mothers, to working mothers. I will go a little further and say that this service could be provided even for other things, not for everything. If one day you have to go out or do something, if we were thinking about the idea of providing service, it would be even broader so you do not have to go to look for a neighbor, so the neighbor takes care of two children. The fact that the neighbor is taking care of so many is proof that there is a lack of day-care centers.

And what about the person who is taking care of children at night, or the comrade who was paying 50 pesos for her child to be looked after? And there are some women with more children. It became a source of jobs, but it is not the safest institution. Mothers spend a lot on this, a considerable part of their wages, and they have no assurance about the quality of the care. Now by having the day-care centers and polyclinics operating 24 hours a day, the task becomes easier. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Luanda Meeting Analyzes Attacks on Cuban Troops

FL0603125190 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] The current session of the joint tripartite commission formed by Cuba, Angola, and South Africa resumed in Luanda today after all representatives attended a reception last night hosted by Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

According to reports, yesterday's meeting focused on analysis of the attacks conducted by the antigovernment organization, National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA], on Cuban internationalist troops. These actions caused the suspension last January of the withdrawal of these forces from Angolan territory. Cuba and Angola decided to implement on 25 February the resumption of the withdrawal of those troops after considering the efforts made by the Governments of the United States and South Africa with the UNITA. This organization committed itself to not repeating military attacks on Cuban soldiers.

Analysis of the current phase of Namibia's independence and its progress is also included as an important point on the agenda of this seventh meeting, and not the eighth as reported earlier. According to the schedule, the Luanda meeting will end this afternoon.

End of Meeting Reported

FL0603185990 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] The seventh session of the joint tripartite commission ended in Luanda today after determining for the first time that the terrorist actions carried out by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] in Angola constitute an obstacle to the peace process in the region.

A news dispatch released at the end of the meeting notes that Washington and Pretoria will exert their best efforts to prevent attacks by the antigovernment Angolan group.

Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, head of the Cuban delegation to this Luanda meeting, told the press that the participants of the meeting described for the first time, within the framework of the joint commission, those actions as affecting the peace process in southwestern Africa. The two governments that are friends of UNITA, Washington and Pretoria, committed themselves to do everything possible toward ending the subversive organization's attacks, said Alarcon. Those governments, stressed Alarcon, have the responsibility of stopping all aid to that group and, and in this manner, ending interference in Angola's internal affairs.

The news dispatch adds that the main points discussed were aspects of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No. 435, approved in 1978, on Namibia's independence and the withdrawal of Cuban troops, among others.

'Thousands' Celebrate Slogan Anniversary

FL0603192790 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Thousands of Havana residents participated last night in a great event at Malecon and 23d Streets on the occasion of the 30th anniversary since the Fatherland or death slogan was used for the first time. Armando Hart and Pedro Miret, members of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Politburo; and Roberto Robaina and Pedro Ross, alternate members of the PCC Politburo and first secretary of the Union of Young Communists and secretary general of the Cuban Workers Federation respectively, shared the moment of remembrance, commitment, and joy with the rest of those who gathered at that location.

After 1900, images of what happened on the afternoon of 4 March 1960, when Yankee imperialists had La Cubre steamship blown up, were shown on a screen. Excerpts of the speech delivered the following day by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro during the eulogy for the victims of that act of sabotage were heard. Omara Portuondo and the Manguare group were featured during the evening's gala concert.

Neighbors Demonstrate Against Dissident Meeting

FL0703040890 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Excerpt] The residents of (Altavoz) in Havana have energetically repudiated a secret meeting of counterrevolutionary elements in front of Sebastian Arcos's residence. This event exhausted the patience of the residents of this district of the capital and other mass sectors, who spontaneously gathered to show that such activities have no impunity. Cuban television there gathered the opinions of several participants in this very energetic rejection of actions by elements linked with anti-Cuban U.S. plans. [passage omitted]

Dominica

Charles, Opposition Exchange Words Over Funds

FL0703000290 Bridgetown CANA in English 2304 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, March 6, CANA—Dominica's two main opposition parties on Tuesday [6 March] rebuked Prime Minister Eugenia Charles for calling them a "band of thieves," as campaigning for a general election gains momentum. Charles, addressing a rally of her ruling Dominica Freedom Party (DFP) in the rural village of Coulibistrie on Sunday [4 March], urged supporters to give her administration another mandate and dismissed the opposition ranks as a group of thieves. Charles said there were secret talks between the opposition aimed at forming a united front to contest the polls. She told supporters the union could bring choas and confusion to Dominica.

Leader of the Dominica United Workers Party Eddison James described the prime minister's statement as arrogant. "Look at the arrogance, the hostility, the viciousness with which she attacks people who are not of her mould," he said. James said the charge showed that the ruling party was losing ground and had become desperate. James said the prime minister must "respond to the call ... To account for U.S. 100,000 dollars which the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) records showed her government received."

Opposition leader Michael Douglas said if his party is elected to government it would carry out an investigation of the present administration, which he accused of corruption. Douglas dismissed Charles' comments about the opposition merger talks, saying "once the electorate wants a merger of the political opposition, so shall it be."

Prime Minister Charles has denied any wrongdoing in office, indicating all actions by her government "are aboveboard."

"I am very proud of my action, I am very proud of the stand I have taken on anti-corruption and ensuring that I am accountable for every cent of the taxpayers money

that comes into my hand," she said. She has also denied receiving money from the American intelligence agency.

"...Over and over again... I have said I did not receive a hundred thousand dollars from anybody...," Ms Charles said. Dominicans are constitutionally due to vote in a general election by October this year, but there is speculation that the polls may be held in May.

Dominican Republic

Role of Armed Forces During Elections Viewed

FL0603172690 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Station commentary: "The Role of the Armed Forces]

[Text] A very important and enlightening statement made by the Armed Forces secretary was published in the press today regarding the role of our Armed Forces in the upcoming political process. The clarification made by the Armed Forces secretary is a result of remarks made by one of the politicians who is participating in the electoral debate in an attempt to stir up resentment in the heart of the military men because of matters regarding internal life-style levels.

The secretary of the Armed Forces says military men should not be subjected to political debate. There are more than enough reasons for this fundamental position be reiterated in view of the fact that the only role the Armed Forces is supposed to have is that of preserving peace and order.

Consequently, it is inadmissible for politicians to meddle in the Armed Forces, even more so when they are political leaders who have refused to receive the protection of the military men and have organized their own civilian militia.

We welcome the Armed Forces secretary's statement and hope that the military is left alone during this electoral process.

Warrant Issued for Arrest of Jorge Blanco

FL0703134090 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Authorities in the Dominican Republic have issued a warrant for the arrest of former President Salvador Jorge Blanco for failing to show up for another trial. Mr. Jorge Blanco's trial on corruption and perjury charges was suspended last year to allow him to accompany his wife to the United States for medical treatment. The former leader's permission to be abroad was revoked saying the family's medical problems appear to be under control. Mr. Jorge Blanco said he was innocent of the charges.

Grenada

NNP Would Not Honor Jones Government Loans

FL0703002190 Bridgetown CANA in English 2324 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, March 6, CANA—Leader of the New National Party (NNP) in Grenada, Dr. Keith Mitchell, has issued a warning to those thinking of getting into any financial deal with the government of Prime Minister Ben Jones. According to Mitchell, if the NNP were to emerge victorious in next week's general elections it would refuse to honour any such arrangement. He told a public meeting of the party that an NNP government would not recognize any loan that is given to "this illegal government at this time when we get into office."

"We will not recognize it so who (is) stupid enough to give them money they would not be paid back by the New National Party government, because we do not give any support to that illegality," he said.

Mitchell said it appeared that the government was trying to enter into a loan arrangement with a group of private institutions in the United States. He said that from the information received the Americans can best be described as belonging to "a fly-by-night organisation and one whose kind of business we do not want in Grenada."

Mitchell alleged that the investors told government that before the money is given it would have to make a 500, 000 U.S dollar down payment. He accused Social Security Minister George McGuire of trying to get the money out of the state-run national insurance scheme (NIS).

"We are telling our brothers and sisters in the NIS board do not give them that 500, 000 dollars,"he said. Well-placed sources reported that within the past week NIS chairman Winston Agostini resigned the post in a row with the minister over the money. These sources also said that several board members threatened to resign in protest but were persuaded from doing so after repeated pleas from NIS director Leroy Robinson.

Haiti

1 Killed, 5 Arrested in Petit Goave Demonstration

FL0603174390 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Excerpts] [Announcer] We have learned there was a big demonstration yesterday in Petit Goave. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent Leonard Felix Beauvais] [passage omitted] The Justice of the Peace revealed the child had been killed by an M-1 rifle bullet. [passage omitted] People who claim to be witnesses say two SEPRENN [road maintenance service] vehicles carrying three soldiers passed along Dessalines Street at high speed, with

the soldiers firing off rounds to create panic. According to information we have gathered, these two SEPRENN jeeps, enroute from Port-au-Prince to Jeremie, had been forced to turn back upon arriving in Ti Guinee by a large demonstration. The people aboard the jeeps went and asked for help from the police at the Petit Goave barracks so they could get through the Ti Guinee area. The barracks sent three policemen to provide security for the SEPRENN employees. Many who claim to be witnesses say it is these security agents who wreaked this unparalleled havoc along Dessalines Street.

However, the three policemen, whom military district commander Lieutenant Henrius Jacquet questioned in front of us, claimed they never fired a shot on Dessalines Street because the street was completely empty and there was therefore no need to fire. [passage omitted]

Roseline Vaval was not the only victim. Fourteen-year-old Clement Sevexant, a student at the national primary school in Grand Fond, is currently at Notre Dame Hospital in a coma, bleeding from the left ear. His father says the police grabbed him as he passed near Notre Dame church—without his having done anything—and beat him on the head with billy clubs. A third victim, Michel Bartelus, was shot in the left arm, has undergone surgery, and is also currently in the hospital. The five people arrested, one of whom had a wound running from the top of his head to the right eye socket, were all released by the district commander. We must tell you, also, that the demonstrators showered the police with rocks. [passage omitted]

The commanding officer of the Department of the West, Colonel Medor, went to Soulouque Barracks to learn the situation in Petit Goave. He met with the district commander, the prefect, and the communal magistrate to review the situation and asked the district commander to conduct an investigation into the death of Roseline Vaval.

More on Demonstration

FL0603182590 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Announcer] We have learned that Petit Goave says it will not stop demonstrating as long as General Avril is in power.

[Correspondent Maxard Metellus] One person dead, several arrests, and several beaten or left with bullet wounds is the toll of a demonstration against General Prosper Avril that took place in Petit Goave on 5 March.

At approximately 0900, students in Petit Goave took to the streets to ask Gen. Avril to resign. The demonstrators shut down all schools, stores, and public offices in town and erected barricades at several intersections and across National Highway No. 2.

Military from the Petit Goave barracks took to the streets at noon to break up the demonstration. They fired numerous rounds at shoulder level and beat everyone they could lay their hands on. A team of soldiers in a SEPRENN vehicle appeared on Dessalines Street and opened fire on the house of Lucien Hyppolite, in which was 11-year-old Roseline Vaval, a student in Elementary II class at the Sisters of Wisdom school in Petit Goave. Roseline was hit by two bullets in the thorax. She is now lying in the morgue at Notre Dame Hospital in Petit Goave.

We remind listeners that over the weekend several hundred people took to the streets in Petit Goave with drums and bamboo instruments, asking Gen. Avril to resign over the weekend, saying that if he did not, National Highway No. 2 would be blocked and schools would be shut down in Petit Goave for the rest of the year.

Another Held on 6 March

FL0603225090 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Excerpts] [Announcer] There is tension in Petit Goave today, one day after the antigovernment demonstration during which a little girl was shot and killed. [passage omitted] And there is an increased military presence here. At approximately 0830 this morning, some 300 persons gathered for another demonstration. Schools, public offices, and marketplaces were unable to function today in Petit Goave. There is no activity whatsoever. We will hear the details from our correspondent.

[Reporter, in Creole] [passage omitted] At around 0830 a group of demonstrators took to the streets to repeat their demands that Gen. Avril step down. In their chants they said blood had been shed and they had to put an end to Gen. Avril.

We must also tell you that yesterday's events greatly affected today's demonstration. There were not many people out. Parents prevented their children from taking to the streets. However, there were still approximately 300 demonstrators. For its part the police in combat dress fanned out all over town. We noticed two policemen guarding each public office. We are following events and will keep you informed.

Anti-Avril Demonstration in Gonaives 6 March

FL0603220090 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1930 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Political events are picking up speed. The opposition to General Avril's government has seriously increased over the past two days and the popular movement has entered the game with a number of demonstrations beginning in provincial towns—first, yesterday in Petit Goave, and today in Gonaives.

All social classes in Gonaives took to the streets today to demonstrate against Gen. Avril's presence at the head of

the government. This demonstration began at the initiative of several hundred students who said they will not stop demonstrating until the 17 September government leaves the National Palace.

[Gonaives correspondent Exile Noel Exile] At approximately 0900 on 6 March, the students from Lycee Fabre Geffrard in Gonaives took to the streets chanting slogans hostile to Gen. Prosper Avril, president of the military government, such as: Gen. Avril, you are a criminal; you are a murderer; stop destroying the nation's children; go away; Petit Goave, hang in there and do not let go; when the nose is struck a blow, the eyes water; Jeremie, Cap-Haitien, Les Cayes, Port-au-Prince, Saint-Michel de l'Atalaye, Jacmel, where are you?

The crowd got progressively bigger because the lycee's students circulated, causing the other schools to let out. Suddenly the streets of Gonaives were full of people. All social classes were out protesting the presence of Gen. Prosper Avril at the head of the government. We must tell you that the demonstrators said many nasty things.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] [passage omitted] Children of Gonaives, the situation of students here is treacherous. First of all, the police have begun killing people. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Exile] The demonstration passed in front of several public offices in Gonaives where they took down the flags. Even public employees were obliged to join the demonstration. The military from Toussaint Louverture Barracks in Gonaives were rushing around in a lemon-yellow jeep trying to see how they could calm the crowd, which was demonstrating peaceably.

We must tell you that all [words indistinct] heavy weapons remained in their holsters. It was very difficult for the military to block the demonstration, because the streets of Gonaives were full of people demonstrating to say they are tired of insecurity, a high cost of living, repression, and exiles—all legitimate children of Gen. Prosper Avril. The skies of Gonaives were dark because there were tires burning all over town while the demonstration was going on. A few former uprooters were spotted standing along the side of the street with folded arms observing what was going on. The demonstrators went home at around noon.

The students have declared they will not set foot inside a school until Gen. Avril leaves and that they will not stop taking to the streets to demonstrate. We are following the situation closely and will keep you informed.

[Announcer] The Gonaives demonstration is in response to what happened in Petit Goave yesterday, where the military killed an 11-year-old school girl. [passage omitted]

New Alliance Gives Avril Deadline of 8 March

FL0603212890 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 2100 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Excerpts] [Announcer] As of 8 March, the population must rise up and rebel if General Avril is still in power, say these six organizations: Confederation for Democratic Unity [KID], Coordinating Body of Young Peasants of the Central Plateau, Alliance to Liberate the Nation, National People's Front, Labadie Youth Movement, and 17 September People's Organization. They consider 8 March the date when incidents will begin if the general does not relinquish power in favor of the alternative chosen by the opposition. Here is reportage by a colleague.

[Unidentified reporter] KID and five other organizations have decided to come together into the Committee for the Unity of the Popular Forces [Komite pou Inite Fos Popile Yo]. These five other organizations are the MJL, or Labadie Youth Movement; KJPPS, or Coordinating Body of Young Peasants of the Central Plateau]; OP-17, or 17 September People's Organization; Alina, or Alliance To Liberate the Nation; and FNP, or the National People's Front. [passage omitted]

According to this new organization, the Committee for the Unity of the Popular Forces, changing the general is not the popular sector's only demand even though this sector has today positioned itself behind the alternative the opposition has proposed. The sector wants many other things, too.

[Begin Evans Paul recording] The popular sector must gather its forces and rise up to force Gen. Prosper Avril to relinquish power. Second, the popular sector must participate in all initiatives taken with a view to replacing Gen. Avril. Three, the popular sector feels that what is most important to the masses is a program addressing the most pressing demands, regardless of what other acceptable government is formed. Four, the popular sector asks all other concerned sectors to remain staunchly in their positions. Do not go making any abrupt turns of the steering wheel toward a phony new forum with Gen. Prosper Avril.

Five, the popular sector demands of any and all future governments security—the right to assemble without fear anywhere, in both town and country, a truly necessary condition for there to be elections in Haiti. Six, the government must make section chiefs stop arresting people without warrants, as well as stop abusing, persecuting, and robbing the peasants.

Seven, the popular sector demands that any government that might replace Gen. Avril be willing to stop using the government media to denigrate the popular organizations and staunch patriots in Haiti. Eight, the popular sector asks any new government, and other concerned sectors, to take rapid measures to lower the cost of living because the population is choking from it. It is on these

conditions we will mobilize and get together with all other sectors to topple the private government of Gen. Prosper Avril.

The popular sector asks the Haitian people to take all measures to rise up and rebel if Gen. Prosper Avril has not, by 8 March 1990 at the latest, handed over power to the alternative to replace him, decided on by all sectors. [end recording]

That was K. Plim [alias Evans Paul], spokesman for this new organization called the Committee for the Unity of the Popular Forces. [passage omitted] As we said, they did not provide any details as to what they intend to do; however, they did say they are certain that this time, it is for real.

Student Organization Calls for Avril Resignation

FL0603230490 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The National Federation of Haitian Students, Feneh, asks all Haitian students to reinforce their organizations and stand their ground so General Avril will leave power. [passage omitted] Feneh says demagogic speeches are preparing the terrain for rigged elections so macoutes can remain in power. Meanwhile, the university is falling apart. [passage omitted]

Therefore, Feneh sees it as more than necessary that this unprogressive, antipopulist government step down. Feneh believes this is no time to fight over alternatives; rather, it is time to mobilize and concentrate one's energies to find the means to send Avril away. The people's organizations should inventory their forces to understand how they will meet the demands of the Haitian masses, regardless of what alternative is chosen. The popular organizations should work to strengthen themselves while mobilizing the sectors they represent. Feneh asks all students to reinforce organizations within the university faculties, to stand their ground on their demands, and to support all initiatives toward change within the university and within the country. Long live an autonomous university in an autonomous country!

That is the position of Feneh, which asks that all the nation's students strengthen their organizations and stand their ground firmly to make Gen. Avril relinquish power.

MDN's De Ronceray Announces 11 March Return

FL0603232390 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Leader of the Mobilization for National Development [MDN] Hubert de Ronceray, who has been living abroad since he was expelled from Haiti during last January's events, has announced he will be returning to Haiti on 11 March.

[Begin de Ronceray recording] [passage omitted] I want to tell the population of Petit Goave and all the other parts of Haiti that I will be returning to Haiti on 11 March and I want this return to mark a historic action in the direction of our country's liberation. [end recording]

We point out that Dr. de Ronceray is from Petit Goave.

Students Protest Against American University

FL0603231490 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The university students in Les Cayes have been on strike since yesterday. They are demanding the resignation of the administration, saying the university is asking them to pay too much and is using the English language to keep people at a distance. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified reporter] In Les Cayes, the students of the American University went on strike this morning to demand the resignation of the president, the administrator, and the entire administration of the university. The students say that when they entered the university they had to pay $360, which the administration led them to believe was for three months. However, once they arrived, the administration changed its policy and told the students the $360 dollars were a scholastic obligation and that they had additionally to pay $90 per credit—that is, every three courses. [sentence as heard]

During a demonstration held in the university courtyard, the students said there are no competent teachers and no laboratory materials. [passage omitted] The students also said the men from American are crooked wheeler-dealers and that if this were an organized country led by serious people, the Ministry of National Education would have come and inspected the university and shut it down because it does not meet all the requirements of a normal university.

The students said: We know that when we demand our rights they always say we are Communists. However, we are not Communists.

The situation became so difficult for the university administration that it had to call for police assistance. However, there were no clashes. [passage omitted]

Jamaica

Local Elections Held Amid 'Strong Security'

FL0603191190 Bridgetown CANA in English 1802 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Report by Julie Chen]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 6, CANA—Jamaicans were voting for a local government Tuesday [27 February], amidst reports of ballot paper thefts and gunfire at one polling station. Electoral officials and radio reports said there were at least two instances of ballot boxes being stolen. Twenty ballot boxes with unused papers were stolen from a station in the western St.

Andrew constituency Monday and a number was taken from another voting centre Tuesday. Electoral officials said the ballot papers in both cases had been declared null and void and replaced.

There were also unconfirmed reports that gunmen opened fire on a polling station in central Kingston, near the offices of the GLEANER newspaper.

Voting was slow in several constituencies Tuesday morning. There was a strong security presence at most of the 6,000 polling stations. Most schools are closed as many are being used as voting centres. Most business places, commercial banks, and government offices will close by midday.

The poll is a straight fight between the People's National Party [PNP] of Prime Minister Michael Manley and the Jamaica Labour Party [JLP] of Edward Seaga.

Yesterday, Manley wound up his campaign with a tour of his East Kingston and Port Royal constitutency and a nationwide broadcast. Manley who cast his vote shortly after the polling stations opened at 7:00 A.M. expressed confidence that his party will emerge victorious. He also said he hoped that the day would be a peaceful one.

The PNP had campaigned on the platform of restoring democracy to the grassroots and promised to return power and authority to local government. Under the JLP government, several responsiblities administered by local parish councils were reassigned to central government.

Opposition leader Seaga wound up his campaign Monday with a spontaneous march from his West Kingston constituency office. The party has asked voters to use the elections to send a clear message to the government to "shape up or ship out." The party had campaigned on the platform that in just one year, the government of Prime Minister Manley had destroyed the Jamaican economy.

Seaga agreed with predictions that voter-turnout would be low but felt that JLP supporters were more motivated to vote and would turn out in higher numbers than the PNP's. He noted, however, that there was still a very high percentage of undecided voters who would not be affected by messages and on whose final decision the outcome could rest.

UWI [expansion unknown] Professor Carl Stone in his latest poll has predicted that the PNP will win the elections but by a reduced majority. According to his poll, 30 percent of the electorate will vote for the ruling PNP while 24 percent will vote for the opposition JLP. The PNP, he said, is expected to win 53.6 percent of the popular vote. Almost 400 candidates are in the running. They include six independents.

Deputies Criticize U.S. Ruling; Cite Sovereignty

FL0503222890 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1601 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Acapulco, 5 Mar (NOTIMEX)—Legislator Guadalupe Gomez Maganda has stated that the Chamber of Deputies categorically rejects the attempt of U.S. authorities to have that country's antidrug agents search Mexican homes. The chair of the International Relations Commission of the federal legislature added that interference by agents from the DEA, FBI, or other U.S. institutions would be like permitting violation of the nation's sovereignty. She stressed that those who govern, led by Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, will know how to defend the nation's sovereignty at all times.

She said that the U.S. Supreme Court could authorize whatever it wants on its territory, but by no means will we in Mexico obey the rulings of a foreign organization. She repeated that U.S. agencies can say whatever they want but in Mexico we are guided by our laws and government; thus, American agents could never be permitted to search the homes of Mexicans. U.S. authorities will continue to try to violate the sovereignty of other countries, but in the case of Mexico they will not succeed because this is a serious, respected nation, the federal legislator for Guerrero (a southern state) said in conclusion.

PRI, PRD Reach Agreements in Guerrero State

FL0503221190 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1556 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Chilpancingo, 5 Mar (NOTIMEX)—The Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD] and the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] have agreed to form joint administrations in two more municipalities in Guerrero State, official sources have reported. After carrying out negotiations, both parties have found a solution to the postelection conflicts that occurred in Tlapehuala and Apaxtla Municipalities where the PRD and PRI claimed absolute victories in the 3 December elections.

In Apaxtla, the agreement was that the municipal presidency and mayoralty would be in the hands of the PRI; and three town councillors, the Civil Registry, and the Tax Collection Subdepartment in the hands of the PRD. In Tlapehuala, the municipal presidency and mayoralty were given to the PRI, while the PRD will have the right to three town councillors, the civil registry, and the president of the Citizens' Advisory Council.

Yesterday PRD members left four more mayoral offices, which began work immediately. However, 18 more continue in the hands of PRD members.

Two Policemen Killed

FL0603224290 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2047 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Cruz Grande, 6 Mar (NOTIMEX)—According to reports from the Guerrero State Directorate of Public Security, two policemen were killed today in this town in the Mexican state of Guerrero, shot by members of the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD). This morning the state government had ordered the evacuation of eight of the 20 mayoral offices taken over by the PRD—a center-left opposition party—which claimed they were theirs after the 3 December local elections.

The town halls evacuated were Arcelia, Ometepec, Ciudad Altamirano, Tierra Colorada, Tixtla, Tlalchapa, Ahuacotzingo, and Cruz Grande. According to reports from the Directorate of Public Security, a confrontation occurred in Cruz Grande, located about 200 km from the tourist port of Acapulco on the coast of Guerrero State, and the two policemen were killed. PRD members apparently fired on the policemen with R-15 weapons.

* Buendia's Widow Testifies in Zorrilla Case

90EM0102A Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 8 Feb 90 pp 5-A, 31-A, 32-A

[Article by Mario Peralta]

[Text] "No one told me to accuse anyone of murdering my husband. I would not allow them to!" Maria Dolores Abalos, widow of Manuel Buendia Tellezgiron, testified before the 34th Criminal Court hearing investigating the death of her husband, denying she had named the former director of the now defunct DFS [Federal Security Directorate], Jose Antonio Zorrilla Perez, as the intellectual author of the Michoacan columnist's killing. However, she did say that if on this earth men do not do justice against those who took the life of her husband, "then I hope that God in heaven will punish them."

The appearance before the 34th Criminal Court hearing at Northern Penitentiary, presided over by Judge Roberto Hernandez Martinez, was long and tedious for both Maria Dolores Abalos de Buendia and her younger children, Gabriela and Juan Carlos, who accompanied her.

In the defendants' box were Jose Antonio Zorrilla Perez, accused of masterminding the killing, Juan Manuel Moro Avila Camacho, allegedly the actual killer, and accomplices Juventino Prado, Raul Perez Carmona, and Sofia Naya Suarez.

First came a reading of statements by Mrs Buendia in which she stated that her husband had received anonymous death threats after publishing articles on Los Tecos of Guadalajara, the Church, and the then governor of Guerrero, Ruben Figueroa.

After that, the deponent said, signs were posted on the windows, door, and walls of their house affirming the existence of Christ: "Communism, no; Christianity, yes!" "No on abortion!"

In the days that followed, "my husband received anonymous phone calls delivering death threats."

Mrs Buendia had previously described at length how she and the newsman had met. "At the time, he was working for LA PRENSA."

She explained how her husband's image kept growing in capital newspapers until he finally came to work for EXCELSIOR and gained international stature.

She said he had friends as well as enemies and was very fond of firearms, apparently (no definitive statement) taking target practice with members of the Federal Security Directorate at their firing range.

She informed the judge that Manuel Buendia's circle of friends was confined to the newspaper world and that she did not know he maintained very close relations with Jose Antonio Zorrilla Perez "because he never visited our house and Manuel did take his best friends there."

Mrs Buendia also revealed that when her husband began his career as a newsman, he worked for different government agencies such as the Federal Electricity Commission [CFE], the Federal District Department [DDF], the National Finance Bank, Inc. [Nafinsa], and various national daily newspapers.

She revealed details such as the fact that Buendia did not like his wife to see his articles before they were published, "but he made me read them in the newspapers when they appeared."

"On many occasions," she said, "we commented on what might happen as a result of some story he reported."

Regarding the former director of Mexican Petroleum and former senator from Sonora, Jorge Diaz Serrano, Manuel Buendia said his ouster "made him very happy" because it was good for the country and that in the future, "government officials would be much more careful not to make mistakes."

Buendia's widow said he frequently wrote articles condemning Arturo Durazo, but that he had nevertheless always been good friends with the former police chief, now in jail.

The information that Buendia was very fond of hunting came as no surprise, nor did the fact that he liked all kinds of weapons: "He had tons of catalogs and spent hours leafing through them looking at the pictures."

Mrs Buendia said her husband always liked to flirt but that she knew none of the women involved. She said her youngest daughter complained he spent little time with her and he would occasionally take her to eat at a fine restaurant.

Buendia taught at the Septien Garcia School of Journalism and later at the UNAM [National Autonomous University of Mexico] School of Political and Social Sciences, but after he became head of LA PRENSA, he swore never to edit any other paper. Rather, he sought to become the best journalist in the country.

"Manuel Buendia had two lives," his wife said, "one at the office and another at home." He did not like to discuss what he wrote at home and only when coaxed would talk about his work.

Calm and frequently pausing, Mrs Buendia gave clear, precise answers to the questions put to her by defense attorneys and later the attorney general.

During the hearing, attorneys for Jose Antonio Zorilla Perez presented as evidence a letter which Buendia had personally sent to Zorrilla Perez and an inscription in the book "The CIA in Mexico," both showing the newsman's initials and text.

The prosecutor said that neither supplied proof of any friendship between Buendia and Zorrilla Perez "because no letter or autograph is authentic proof of a close friendship."

As the hearing ran on, everyone present, particularly the defendants, became increasingly impatient. At one point Raul Perez Carmona told the judge that Mrs Buendia was "there to learn who had killed her husband, not to hear the attorney general's versions."

Zorrilla Perez pointed out that Buendia Tellezgiron's funeral expenses were paid by the DFS and not by him.

He added that after the murder, he ordered special protection for the widow and that agents assigned to her took her children to school.

Mrs Buendia denied this was true and said she had agents "who watched rather than protected" her and had never taken the children to school.

She said that about 2 weeks before her husband was murdered, he received a phone call from Zorrilla Perez and that she heard her husband tell the then director of the DFS: "Stop what you are doing and get out of the country. I know a lot of things. You'd better get out or you're going to have a hard time."

The witness then said that Buendia was very upset and that despite the late hour was very emphatic. After he hung up, she asked him why he was so angry and he answered that "Zorrilla Perez was in trouble and involved in drug trafficking."

Zorrilla Perez then interrupted her: "That is not true. With all due respect to you and your late husband, I hereby state that that is not true, that I never telephoned your house after midnight."

Mrs Buendia then asked the judge for permission to respond to Zorrilla's remarks and, facing him, said: "I do not lie. No one can call me a liar."

Zorrilla then took advantage of the opportunity to claim she was "being forced by the Office of Attorney General of the Federal District to accuse" him.

In the midst of the confrontation involving the judge and other persons in the courtroom, Mrs Buendia replied:

"No one told me to accuse anyone of murdering my husband. I would not allow it!" she exclaimed.

"I am here because I was ordered to appear," she continued, "but I would not allow myself to be instructed in how to respond as you claim," she told Zorrilla.

"Please go more slowly," the judge told the widow, adding that her statements had to be recorded. "I'm sorry, Your Honor, but I get carried away. I am not used to these things and I lost control of myself."

Later, in front of her children Gabriela and Juan Carlos, she said that she was not aware Zorrilla Perez had been a close friend of her late husband, inasmuch as he invited his friends to the house and she had never seen Zorrilla there.

Zorrilla Perez appeared to be troubled by Mrs Buendia's revelation concerning the telephone call in the early hours of the morning and insisted "it was not true."

Mrs Buendia then responded, "I have not come here to lie; I have no need to do so. I am not looking for guilty parties and point to no one, but what I said is true."

Raul Perez Carmona, "El Diablo," accused, along with Zorrilla Perez, of murdering Manuel Buendia Tellezgiron, said yesterday that the press must bear much of the responsibility for the fact that the real killers are free and the court is trying innocent parties forced by the police to admit their guilt.

"Neither I nor Juventino Prado nor Sofia Naya, 'La Guera,' who have been professional police for many years, deserves to be in jail but the legal authorities decided to find someone guilty of the death of Manuel Buendia and here we four are."

Visibly disturbed and angry at the press, he said that "if I were to speak, many newsmen would be in jail."

His complaint was expressed before the entire 34th Criminal Court yesterday morning during the hearing on "the Buendia case" at which Buendia's widow, Maria Dolores Abalos, appeared as a witness for the prosecution.

For her part, Sofia Naya, who tried to calm Perez Carmona, said that a proper investigation should be made to find those guilty of the murder of Buendia Tellezgiron and that "injustices are being committed against us and our families." This statement was made in behalf of the four, including Juan Rafael Avila Moro.

"We know nothing about Zorrilla Perez' problem, we have nothing to do with it, and he, Zorrilla Perez, has acted like a man and exonerated us. He has also denied any guilt in the matter."

Naya, "La Guera," said that public opinion must find out what is happening in the Buendia case, in which the Office of Attorney General of the Federal District is determined to find them guilty.

Juventino Prado said that he thought emphasis must be placed on statements made by Buendia's widow to the effect that the columnist's father was killed in Zitacuaro, Michoacan, and the alleged murderer was released.

Prado said one must not forget that in Michoacan as well as in many other parts of the country, relatives eventually seek revenge for murders and the case of Manuel Buendia's father can be no exception. Indeed, relatives of the senior Buendia's killer "were wide-eyed at the fact that his son was influential and they killed him."

Juventino Prado, former commanding officer of the Federal Security Directorate and former director of the Intelligence Directorate, said that a police officer "does not kill in the same way that the person who murdered Buendia did."

"I Did Not Kill Your Husband"

"I swear by the Holy Virgin and my mother here present, Madam," Juan Rafael Moro Avila said, addressing Maria Dolores Abalos, widow of the murdered newsman, "I swear to you I did not kill your husband; I am innocent. Help me get out of jail and I will find your husband's killer because they have jailed innocent men for the crime against Manuel Buendia Tellezgiron."

In a hearing held today before the 24th Criminal Court at Northern Penitentiary, Moro Avila interrupted a faceoff between the widow of the murdered newsman and the alleged intellectual author of the crime, Jose Antonio Zorrilla Perez, former director of the now defunct Federal Security Directorate, respectfully (he said) asking the court secretary, Ana Cecilia Anduiza Valera, for the right to speak.

Anduiza Valera told the alleged murderer to wait until Manuel Buendia's widow finished her confrontation with Zorrilla Perez, when she would then allow him to speak. However, she noted it was not the proper time because it was an evidentiary hearing rather than a confrontation of witnesses, even though the confrontation between Zorrilla and Dolores Abalos had been included.

However, when the latter two finished, the secretary of the 34th Court told Moro Avila he could proceed.

"I did not murder Buendia, as the Office of Attorney General of the Federal District claims I did. I was forced to say I was guilty of the crime committed against Manuel Buendia but I am innocent. I said I killed him because the police had my wife and brother in custody and my mother was being detained with a heart condition. Furthermore, they seized my property.

"That is why I said I was guilty," "El Moro" said.

"Please believe I wouldn't harm a flea, much less kill a man of the stature of your husband. I am innocent and I want the authorities to demonstrate my guilt with facts, not words."

Moro Avila said authorities had forced him to say he was guilty and that the press helped the government sustain the accusation "because maybe it is better for them that way."

The real killers must be dying laughing, he said, emphasizing that "if I made statements to the press in the presence of the authorities, it was because they had me in a tight spot. I couldn't say anything else because they had my entire family."

Judge Roberto Hernandez Martinez of the 34th Criminal Court at Northern Penitentiary said these statements "have no great validity because you have already given your official statements."

Costa Rica

President-Elect Names New Cabinet Members

PA0603203390 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1922 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] San Jose, 6 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—President-Elect Rafael Angel Calderon today announced his cabinet team for the four years beginning 8 May.

Even though most are economists, Calderon stressed that social policies will be as important as economic issues in his administration.

"It is important for the country to grow, develop, and improve our economic indexes, but we must also advocate a better distribution of the wealth among all," he emphasized.

Calderon will put his vice presidents in charge of coordinating actions in both sectors. The first vice president, German Serrano, will be in charge of the social sector, and the second, Arnoldo Lopez Echandi, will be in charge of the production sector.

The new cabinet ministers will include:

Minister of the Presidency, Rodolfo Mendez Mata
Foreign Relations, Bernd Niehaus Quesada
Government, Luis Fishman Zonzinski
Justice, Elizabeth Odio Benito
Security, Victor Emilio Herrera Alfaro
Finance, Mario Lara Eduarte
Agriculture, Juan Rafael Lizano Saenz
Economy and Industry, Gonzalo Fajardo
Natural Resources, Hernan Bravo Trejos
Public Works, Guillermo Madriz de Mezerville
Education, Marvin Herrera Araya
Health, Carlos Castro Charpentier
Labor, Erick Thompson Pineres
Culture, Mercedes Lopez de Gordienko
Planning, Helio Fallas
Housing, Cristobal Zawadski Wojtasiak
Foreign Trade, Roberto Rojas Lopez
Science and Technology, Orlando Morales
Tourism, Luis Manuel Chacon Jimenez
State Reorganization, Johnny Meono Segura

Calderon also announced the appointments of:

Rodolfo Jimenez, a lawyer, economist, and businessman, as his personal adviser;
Jorge Guardia, the new Central Bank president, who will also be an adviser; and
Elias Jimenez Fonseca, new president of the Social Security Board.

The new officials told the media that they have already contacted the current ministers to prepare the change of government.

El Salvador

Cristiani Meets With UN Official De Soto

PA0703033090 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2219 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] San Salvador, 6 Mar (ACAN-EFE) — Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani met for one hour today with UN official Alvaro De Soto, in charge of negotiating the resumption of the dialogue between the Salvadoran Government and the guerrillas.

Official sources simply confirmed the meeting took place, but gave no details on the content of the conversation between the Salvadoran president and UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's personal representative for Central America.

Alvaro De Soto arrived last night in El Salvador from Mexico, where he met with Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] representatives.

Since the Salvadoran Government and the FLMN agreed in late January to UN assistance in resuming the dialogue, Soto has met at least three times with Cristiani and a similar number of times with the guerrillas' representatives. However, to date there have been no statements on the results of his efforts.

San Salvador Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez, who will probably also meet with Alvaro De Soto, said on 4 March that there is still no date or venue for the first meeting. He warned that the "end of the war is farther away than many believe."

Observers maintain that difficulties in resuming the dialogue process in El Salvador have increased following the Sandinists' defeat in Nicaragua, because the political and military sectors that are more reluctant to negotiate believe that the lack of Nicaraguan support will definitely weaken the FLMN.

The talks between the government and the Salvadoran guerrillas were interrupted in November, after two unsuccessful rounds of talks in Mexico and Costa Rica, and shortly after the biggest FMLN offensive began in various cities in the country.

Thus far, the government insists that the FMLN must cease hostilities, gradually demobilize, and join the political process as a party.

However, the guerrillas maintain that the cessation of hostilities has to be negotiated, and they are not willing to lay down their weapons until "conditions for a political and democratic game with all guarantees," similar to that of Nicaragua, exist in El Salvador.

According to the FMLN, "the main obstacle to the democratization of the country is the Armed Forces." Therefore, to attain a political solution to the conflict,

the Armed Forces "must relinquish the monopoly it has on power, purge its ranks, and reduce and professionalize its members."

A recent editorial on Radio Venceremos, the official FMLN mouthpiece, maintained that the "Salvadoran Armed Forces are the key to attaining peace not only in El Salvador but also in all Central America."

Attorney General Unhurt, 1 Killed in Rebel Attack

PA0603215290 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2029 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] San Salvador, 6 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—One soldier was killed and six more persons were injured, including three reporters, in an attack against a helicopter in which Attorney General Mauricio Colorado was one of the passengers, official sources have noted, adding that the attorney general was unhurt.

According to the Armed Forces Press Committee (Coprefa), members of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) machine-gunned the helicopter as it was flying to the town of Guancorita in northern Chalatenango Department. The attack took place when the helicopter was flying low close to its destination, in an area with a heavy guerrilla presence, the military sources said.

The same sources added that the attorney general and his retinue were going to be present at the disinterment of the bodies of the victims of an Air Force bombing in that department three weeks ago. The sources did not indicate the precise number of persons traveling aboard the helicopter, but did say that the condition of four of the six persons injured, two soldiers and two reporters, was serious. The wounded reporters are cameraman Manuel Diaz and sound man William Madrid, of the local television station Telecorporacion Salvadorena (TCS).

FMLN Communique

PA0703011590 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0019 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Communique issued by the Joint Command of the Modesto Ramirez Central Front on 6 March; place not given]

[Text] One military helicopter was shot down today while another one was damaged in Quebranda Honda near Chalatenango City. Therefore, the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] wishes to inform our people of the following:

1. The antiaircraft clash took place during a military operation which the DM-1 [Military Detachment 1] is carrying out in that sector.

2. Early in the morning we fought with DM-1 troops, who were supported by Salvadoran Air Force helicopters.

3. Within this framework, our antiaircraft units fired on two military helicopters that had fired rockets and machine-gunned the area. Our units shot down one and seriously damaged another helicopter.

4. These actions took place near the capital of Chalatenango Department, and not near the Guancora land settlement.

5. Later, we learned from public reports that one of the helicopters was carrying a team of journalists and Attorney General Mauricio Colorado along with the troops. To that effect, we regret the injuries inflicted on the journalists, to whom we reiterate our recommendation that they should not travel on any military vehicles or aircraft. We extend this warning to all civilians and government officials.

Guatemala

Cerezo Comments on U.S. Envoy's Statements

PA0603225690 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2054 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 6 Mar (ACAN - EFE)—President Vinicio Cerezo declared today that the United States "does not wear a crown" enabling it to tell Guatemala what it must do regarding matters of human rights. He admitted, however, that his government accepts U.S. suggestions.

During a news conference at the government palace, Cerezo commented on the statements by U.S. Ambassador Thomas Strook, who said last week that "the Bush administration was concerned about the human rights violations in Guatemala."

In an unusual stance, President Cerezo said that the United States, although it is a very powerful country, "does not have the right to give orders to his government."

The president explained that the U.S. Embassy is bothered because "we do not accept all of its suggestions, which more than anything resemble orders of what one must do."

"We listen to their suggestions and concerns, but the Guatemalan Government decides how things must be done, because the United States does not wear a crown," the president said.

He said that "it seems the United States is getting back at Guatemala for the Esquipulas II (Central American) peace plan. Our talks with certain U.S. sectors and the plan's success show that we were right."

Cerezo said Ambassador Strook "went to Washington for consultations on human rights matters as part of a general action related to the discussion in Geneva."

Strook was called for consultations by the U.S. State Department, and at "our request" as well, regarding the

right that the United States has "to hand out advice to the government" on human rights matters.

There were rumors in diplomatic circles this morning that Strook will not return to Guatemala, but the report could not be confirmed. President Cerezo said that the U.S. Government has the right to make suggestions, but not to issue opinions on Guatemala's internal affairs. He said that the statements made by the United States are bound to cause a reaction in Geneva, because "what is sought at this moment is an international condemnation of Guatemala."

Cerezo recognized that there are human rights violations in Guatemala, but said that his government has carried out actions to control the groups responsible for such violations.

"The United States is the only country that tells us we are capable but reluctant. This is a political difference, because they are accusing the government of not having the will, and that is suspicious," Cerezo stated.

"We have received demonstrations of good will on the part of the United States along with virtual orders of what we must do, but not money and cooperation, as we have from the Federal Republic of Germany," he said.

However, the president described relations between his autonomous and independent government and the United States as "normal," and said he "does not think that we will reach any kind of break. We are open to suggestions, but not to being told how we must do things," he emphasized.

Nicaragua

Chamorro Meets Oscar Arias; Delivers Letter

PA0703045990 Paris AFP in Spanish 0142 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Liberia, Costa Rica, 6 Mar (AFP)—President-elect Violeta de Chamorro announced today that once she assumes power on 25 April, she will formally propose the demilitarization of all the Central American countries to strengthen the regional peace process.

Chamorro made the announcement through a personal letter that she delivered today to Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, with whom she met for over four hours in Liberia, Guanacaste, 70 km south of the border between the two countries.

The letter read by Chamorro to the press said: "To give a finishing flourish to the Central American peace process, I will propose a demilitarization agreement in Central America to be signed by the six Central American governments (including Panama) and to be supported by all of Latin America."

Chamorro justified her proposal, of which she did not give any details, by saying that "while the world seeks an opening for its political systems, our small countries should also seek ways to eliminate the enormous economic burden that armies represent.

Addressing President Arias, Chamorro said that by abolishing its army as a permament institution in 1948, Costa Rica "has become an example for us. We must extend that example to the rest of Central America to achieve our longed for peace."

Referring to the case of Nicaragua, Chamorro said that the current Sandinist People's Army—consisting of approximately 70,000 men—"will have to be reduced gradually," until it reaches a level similar to that of the Costa Rican Civil Guard, a model that the new Panamanian Government is currently trying to apply in Panama.

In addition, Mrs. Chamorro once again thanked Arias for his effort in favor of Central American peace, which led to holding, on 25 February, "free and peaceful elections in Nicaragua as all Nicaraguans wanted."

President Arias said that his long meeting with Chamorro was dedicated to discussing possible obstacles to the transition of power in Nicaragua and the departure of over 200,000 Nicaraguan refugees and immigrants who live in Costa Rica.

Arias thanked Mrs. Violeta Chamorro for choosing Costa Rica as the first country to visit after having been elected president of Nicaragua 10 days ago.

President Arias said that he and his guest carefully discussed Central America's future, which from now on will enter "the second stage" of the peace process.

Arias stressed that "now the challenge that the Central American countries face is the need to fulfill their people's basic demands within an atmosphere of peace, freedom, and democracy." "The effort should be designed to attain economic growth and better standards of living for the population," Arias said, insisting that the struggle for economic democratization should prevail in Central America.

Concerning the repatriation of about 200,000 refugees and Nicaraguan immigrants who settled in Costa Rica, Chamorro said that she knows that throughout Central America, thousands of her compatriots "have their suitcases ready and are waiting for the opportunity to return" to Nicaragua. She added that her government will struggle to ease the repatriation.

The Nicaraguan president-elect expressed optimism about the international aid her future government will receive and based her expectations on the "many solidarity messages" received "from all over the world."

The Nicaraguan president-elect traveled by land from Managua to Liberia accompanied by Vice President-elect Virgilio Godoy, and her political adviser Antonio Lacayo. President Arias was accompanied by his Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal, and his Security Minister Hernan Garron.

Contras, Chamorro's Envoys Fail To Reach Accord

PA0703014090 Panama Clty ACAN in Spanish 2359 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 6 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—The contras did not reach any agreement today on their demobilization with representatives of President-elect Violeta Chamorro and the National Reconciliation Commission (CNR), whom they met with here. At the end of the meeting with three contra commanders, Jaime Cuadra, member of the Political Commission of the National Opposition Union (UNO), said that they did not discuss the demobilization of the anti-Sandinist rebels who are based in Honduras.

"We did not reach any agreement. We only took an initial step toward Nicaragua's national reconciliation. What we have now is an open channel to continue dialogue," he added.

The meeting between the contra leaders, Chamorro's envoys, and the CNR had created a climate of expectation in Honduras. It was believed that the topic of demobilization of the 12,000 rebels, who occupy a 500-square kilometer area in eastern Honduras on the Nicaraguan border, would be broached.

The representatives of UNO and the RN [Nicaraguan Resistance] also held a meeting with Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas, with whom they did not discuss the contra's demobilization either, according to Cuadra.

Commander "Ruben" (Oscar Sovalbarro), G-5 of the RN General Staff, reiterated that they were willing to return to Nicaragua "when all the guarantees are given and the Sandinist People's Army is disarmed, because it is the army of a party." He added that the contras are in Honduras "with the approval of the government of this country" and that if President Rafael Leonardo Callejas demands that they leave "we will obey him."

"Ruben" said that, given all the guarantees, the RN fighters "will return to Nicaraguan to cultivate the land, because we did not begin the struggle to seize power, but to establish a democratic system."

The contras said that in the event of their possible departure from Honduras, they could establish a base inside Nicaraguan territory until an agreement is reached with the new government, which will be inaugurated on 25 April.

In a brief communique, the RN stated that Violeta Chamorro sent them a message recognizing "the valuable effort and positive results" of the contra activities to attain a democratic process in Nicaragua. They added that Chamorro offered the RN combatants and their families "a broad and effective cooperation program that would permit their reintegration into the country," and cooperation in "national reconstruction."

In addition to CNR representatives Antonio Tijerino and Roberto Rivas, the meeting was also attended by contra commanders "Renato," "Emiliano," and "Blass," member of the Indian "Yatama" organization. Contra advisers who comprise the political commission were also present.

RN Leader Sanchez Discusses Contra Policy

PA0603192090 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Aristides Sanchez, member of the Nicaraguan Resistance's [RN] Political-Military Commission, has warned that the contras will surrender their arms only to the government of President-elect Violeta Barrios de Chamorro and only after Defense Minister Humberto Ortega and Interior Minister Tomas Borge have left their posts.

Sanchez said the contras are no longer in a position to continue the war, but will nevertheless see that the people's mandate is enforced according to the people's will. We will not surrender our arms to the International Support and Verification Commission [CIAV] or to any foreign country, Sanchez pointed out. We will surrender our arms to the new government when the reforms that the people demanded and for which they voted are implemented.

In addition, President-elect Barrios has designated a commission to discuss the terms for the rebels' disbanding with the contra staff. This delegation, which the president-elect sent in her own name and which traveled to Tegucigalpa today, is formed by Jaime Cuadra, Roberto Rivas, and Antonio Tijerino. The three were appointed by the National Reconciliation Commission headed by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo.

Sanchez said the contras will surrender their weapons in due time to the new government, which will assume office on 25 April. We are willing to surrender our arms to Dona Violeta. We will make every effort toward this, Sanchez said during a conversation over the telephone from Tegucigalpa. He stressed the counterrevolutionaries will not hand over their arms to the CIAV or anyone else. They will, however, surrender their arms in Nicaragua, as a sign of respect and support for the new government. He said the contras do not intend to form a new army in Nicaragua. All we want is to return to Nicaragua, he said. All of the combatants and their relatives want to return. We do not want to form any army.

He said the causes that made them rise up in arms to depose the Sandinist regime have disappeared. And yet the defense and interior ministers hold true power in Nicaragua. We want this to have changed by inauguration day, he said.

Chamorro Not To Allow Contras in Armed Forces

PA0603150490 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1204 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Spokesmen for President-elect Violeta Barrios de Chamorro today reported that she told the international media recently that no contras will be admitted into the country's armed forces. Furthermore, she said that for the contras there will be only a general amnesty, which will be effective after she is sworn in on 25 April. Despite these remarks by Mrs. Barrios and the delegation she sent to Honduras to talk with the contras about demobilization, the contra leaders said they will not surrender their weapons to anyone. The contras radicalized their stand after the 3 March visit by U.S. Roving Ambassador Harry Shlauderman's, with whom they analyzed the situation. This was interpreted as U.S. support for nondemobilization.

Contras 'Refused To Heed' Chamorro Call

PA0603184990 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] The counterrevolutionaries today refused to heed Violeta Barrios' call for a speedy demobilization. They warned they would stay in Honduras if the new government does not make the announced changes. The response of the contra leaders occurred a few days after the contra staff met with Crescencio Arcos, U.S. ambassador to Honduras, at a time when the U.S. State Department remains silent on the issue. The Somozists say they will not disband prior to 25 April if Barrios does not make the announced changes and if the Sandinists fail to hand over power.

The contra staff threatened to break off the talks with the CIAV [International Support and Verification Commission] if the new government does not offer them the proper conditions for repatriation. They added that they are willing to return to Nicaragua with their arms in hand, leaving their relatives in Honduras. CIAV representative Francesco Pandrel, who will discuss the demobilization plan with the counterrevolutionaries, will arrive in Honduras tomorrow.

Ortega Addresses Press Association Meeting

PA0603194990 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1550 GMT 6 Mar 90

[President Daniel Ortega's address to the Inter-American Press Association, IAPA, meeting at the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ....representatives of the media organized within the IAPA. I feel satisfied because the IAPA is meeting in Nicaragua for the first time. The Nicaraguan people's will to build, strengthen, and develop a democracy has been tested. Following the victory of the revolution, the Nicaraguans exerted themselves to stabilize the country, develop the country in every sense, democratize the economy, democratize the freedom of the press and expression, and democratize education and culture. However, we were subject to an unjust and illegal war sponsored by the U.S. Government.

An international debate resulted from this issue. U.S. officials sought to justify their actions against Nicaragua, and Nicaragua defended its right to self-determination, sovereignty, and noninterference from any power in what was, is, and should be the construction of our democratic process. This led to charges, countercharges, an internal polarization, and a war that has caused more than 60,000 casualties, including 30,000 deaths, to date.

If we compare this figure with the victims, meaning the casualties sustained by the United States in various wars throughout this century, including World War II, the Korean war, and the Vietnam war; and if we compare the U.S. population and the Nicaraguan population, we will realize that the 60,000 casualties in Nicaragua would be the equivalent to 2 million casualties in the United States. Relatively speaking, Nicaragua has sustained a far higher number of casualties than the United States sustained in the various wars that have been waged in this century.

When a war is openly waged by a foreign power, the nation subject to such an aggression can adopt—based on its constitutional and international rights—the necessary measures to guarantee its citizens' right to live even in the most extraordinary conditions. The United States adopted extreme measures during World War II—even though the conditions prevailing at the time were not as grave as those which have prevailed in Nicaragua, because the U.S. people did not directly feel the impact of the war—ranging from the imprisonment and confinement of thousands upon thousands of North Americans of Japanese origin to the closure and confiscation of news media that were suspected of being against U.S. interests.

A similar attitude was adopted by the U.S. Government during the Vietnam war. A book was recently published [words indistinct] a comparison between the United States and Nicaragua, stating that human rights are respected here in times of war, despite the extraordinary conditions that prevail. In conclusion, Nicaragua defeated the United States in the category that refers to respect for human rights in extraordinary conditions and [words indistinct] this category.

The argument that has been used about Nicaragua, meaning the argument used by the United States for the aggression on Nicaragua, in an attempt to justify its policy of war against Nicaragua, was intended to dispel any doubts....[changes thought] let there be no doubt about the reasons that might have resulted in certain excesses that logically create an internal polarization. These excesses and radical positions [passage indistinct]. The high point in this whole situation was the fact that Nicaragua sought the International Court of Justice

[ICJ] and requested a trial against the states that were [word indistinct] Nicaragua.

Nicaragua accused the United States of violating its internal integrity, territorial integrity, and the Nicaraguan people's right to live; and the United States defended its, quote, right, unquote, to intervene in Nicaragua, presumably because Nicaragua presented a threat to U.S. security.

Who can raise questions about the ICJ's role? Who can raise questions about the ICJ's actions at various times? Even the United States has resorted to that international court to bring suit against other governments that the United States felt threatened the security of U.S. citizens or the security of the people of the United States.

In other words, Nicaragua sought recourse at the ICJ to defend international laws, to defend the international legal order, to defend the rights of the people of nations to resolve problems within the framework of international laws and the framework of negotiations, not through the path of violence or through the path of war.

In a historical ruling, the ICJ condemned the United States. It condemned the United States because of its [word indistinct] action against Nicaragua and ordered the U.S. Government to immediately stop all such actions against the Nicaraguan people. It also demanded that the United States indemnify Nicaragua.

So, if one advocates rational attitudes, if one defends the international legal order, and if one is working for peace and democracy, one has to respect the instruments and the organizations that the nations of the world have in fact created and supported to permit coexistence among nations and to contribute toward settling problems and conflicts that may arise among states through negotiation and peaceful means, within a framework of respect for international laws.

If we are supposed to be working for peace and democracy by respecting international laws, I cannot conceive of anyone raising doubts about the ruling by the ICJ at The Hague. It cannot be and could not be that this court, to which the United States has found it expedient to resort, has validity when the United States itself resorts to it and is not valid when a nation like Nicaragua resorts to it, but the court rules in favor of Nicaragua and against a world power. Respect for human rights, and full democracy—which relates to economic rights, political [words indistinct], public freedoms, social rights—are necessarily dependent on respect for international law. Respect for international law democratizes relations among nations on earth.

We cannot accept the current international legal, political, and economic order because under that international order, nations are ranked as first-rate, second-rate, and third-rate nations. Becoming a first-rate nation and having veto power [in the United Nations] depends on the tangible resources a nation has or the military power it develops.

We must fight this inequality. It occurs at the United Nations itself and is manifested through relations among states, through economic and political relations, and gives rise to tensions in countries like ours, which have no atomic or physical potential and are therefore subject to great tensions.

After the victory of the Nicaraguan revolution, when the Nicaraguan revolution triumphed in 1979, there were military dictatorships throughout Latin America. There were dictatorships in Chile, Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Haiti, and in all of the Central American countries [as heard]. In other words, Latin America was saturated with military dictatorships. These dictatorships had taken shape and developed not because of decisions by their people, but because there were other interests at play, which were promoted and supported by mistaken U.S. policies with regard to the Latin American and Caribbean nations.

Democratic opportunities later emerged in all of these countries. There were democratic opportunities to a greater or lesser extent; however, doubt was cast upon democratic opportunities with regard to political and public freedoms because our people still did not have access to economic and social opportunities.

I am aware of the concerns of the Latin American leaders who emerged from these democratic opportunities; I am aware of the desperation of the Latin American leaders who are on a one-way street. They ask themselves if it is worth all the effort if international economic relations do not change, if it is worth all the effort if we are burdened with the weight of the debt, if it is worth all the effort if IMF policies are imposed on us, if it is worth all the effort and sacrifice when situations have been created that generate social instability and, therefore, political instability, and when revolutionary struggle and military coups once again emerge as their only alternative.

The people of Latin America and the Caribbean have a high degree of social and political awareness. These are economically and socially backward people, but they are advanced in political awareness.

We are struggling in favor of interdependence among states, nations, and people. We are struggling against the policy of dependence that subordinates the interest of developing and Latin American countries to those of developed and industrialized countries.

It is here that we find a contradiction between the Latin American people's hopes for democracy, social peace, and economic development and the economic structures and international economic order which, in their current form, have been strongly defended by the developed and industrialized countries.

We cannot separate the possibility of democracy, full respect for human rights, public freedoms, and freedom of expression from this reality that keeps the developing countries, Latin America, and the Caribbean under constant threat. We want to make progress in favor of

peace, democracy, freedom of expression, and human rights in developing countries, Latin America, and the Caribbean. We must strengthen Latin America's agreement on this issue by (?adding action to words). We agree in our proposals, but we must work even harder to turn these proposals into actions.

I am aware of the serious risks created by the desperate situations confronted by the Latin American countries, despite the political opportunities that have emerged. However, even more political resolve is necessary to unite our efforts and actions. I am speaking of our own responsibility as Latin Americans because, while it is true that there is a huge imbalance in international relations, we as Latin Americans cannot contribute toward eliminating that imbalance if we are not capable of uniting or of executing common policies just as the developed and industrialized countries have united to execute common policies toward the developing countries.

They have a monolithic, solid, single front; Latin America does not have that single, solid front. Quote: We are aware of the desperation, that the economic and social problems are unsolvable, and that, therefore, a political crisis, a revolutionary struggle, and military coups can be expected to take place again. Unquote. Today, more than ever, all of the Latin American leaders are convinced of this. First of all, however, we have work to do. We must strengthen our economic, social, and cultural exchanges. Something must be done, and a lot can be done in those areas.

We must execute common policies so the weight of the debt will stop being a hindrance to our countries' possibilities of social and economic development. We must do even more. We must form a common front so new laws can be established to govern the economic relationship between developed and developing countries.

It would even be of little use if tomorrow the foreign debt was overlooked or totally erased, if international economic relations do not change. All Latin American countries would be standing around the corner once again, confronting debt. The Latin American countries would make sacrifices to produce, and all for what? To pay interest, to pay a debt they would again be faced with.

Therefore it is necessary to combine the Latin American countries' actions to internally strengthen national feelings and Latin American feelings. The certainty that national and Latin American unity is necessary to organize a common front will allow us to improve our position in facing the developed countries. We have a great neighbor called the United States of America, which has yet to adopt an accurate policy toward Latin American countries.

I remember, as an extremely important event, the meeting that Latin American and Caribbean presidents held on 27 October with the U.S. President and the prime minister of Canada in San Jose, Costa Rica. We all gave speeches agreeing on the gravity of the crisis that affects Latin American countries and agreeing that efforts have been exerted to strengthen democracy in Latin America, but also agreeing that this is not enough if democracy is not accompanied by a new international economic order, if democracy is not accompanied by consistent and corresponding action with regard to the debt so Latin American nations can be liberated from the burden of this debt. Otherwise, what we have managed to achieve will quickly deteriorate.

Representatives of two developed and industrialized nations heard the coinciding position of all the Latin American and Caribbean leaders and presidents who had gathered there. I remember the speech given by Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja. He said: The truth is that we, the Latin Americans, are now living a Marshall Plan applied backwards, because what represented a plan intended to benefit European countries and strengthen their economies has resulted in capital drain and a net transfer of capital from the Latin American and Caribbean countries to developed and industrialized countries.

President Borja added: We are impoverished countries, countries facing an economic crisis, yet—despite these disadvantageous conditions—we are transferring net capital to the industrialized nations. We are transferring net capital through the foreign debt service imposed on us, and which we have to pay. We transfer net capital through unequal trade in which our export product prices constantly fluctuate and are subject to drops, yet everything we import from industrialized countries is never exposed to price drops because their product prices are always on the rise. While in San Jose we talked about the coffee issue, given the enormous drop in coffee prices. President Borja was right: We are facing a Marshall Plan, applied backwards.

Brazilian President Jose Sarney said that the truth is that Latin Americans can no longer hope for a Marshall Plan for Latin America. There was talk about that. He added that the time for Marshall Plans is over—that was a time in keeping with the post-war situation when the United States looked toward Europe and never toward Latin America. It never looked toward its backyard, to what that country itself has called its backyard, its security zone.

He said in a positive light: Let us forget about Marshall Plans. The reality is that we have to live and will continue to live under a Marshall Plan as described by President Borja, a Marsall Plan applied backwards, that is, one involving draining off net capital from Latin American economies and the bloodletting of Latin American workers, peasants, and all Latin American economic groups.

He called for Latin American unity and a real exchange among Latin American countries. We all discussed this and I said, in the presence of President Bush, that we Latin Americans are not enemies of the United States,

that we have never implemented an anti-U.S. policy and that we have not thought about nor are capable of implementing an anti-U.S. policy.

I said that, quite to the contrary, we Latin Americans have been the victims of mistaken U.S. policies, that we had lost territory to the United States, that we have been invaded by U.S. troops at different times in our history when the USSR was nonexistent or when the Communist threat—which the United States could use to justify other interventions—was nonexistent. The United States was already invading Latin America—Mexico, Honduras, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, and other countries.

Afterward, instead of helping strengthen democracy in those countries, the United States helped establish the dictatorships of Somoza and Trujillo, who were great friends of the United States, the dictatorship of Batista, and all the others who were friendly to the United States. These wrong policies were obviously creating an opposition against what we have called imperialist policies. They generated anti-imperialist feelings, not an anti-U.S. feeling but an anti-imperialist feeling among the people of Latin America and the Caribbean. The United States now has a great opportunity to help strengthen peace and democracy in Latin America in light of these democratic developments. The United States does in fact have a great opportunity. However, is the United States willing accept this challenge? To take it on with actions rather than words?

I was concerned because after George Bush was installed as U.S. President—at a time when Latin America was like a powder keg, economic programs having failed in countries like Argentina and Brazil time and time again, and Latin American countries were amid crisis—his first action at the international level, which we understand was in keeping with agreements with the USSR, was to strengthen accords with regard to the trend toward disarmament and peaceful relations between the powers. However, his next action was to immediately go to East Europe rather than going first to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, which are closer to the United States, which have great problems, and where the situation is explosive. He went to East Europe instead.

Does the United States have, strategically speaking, greater interests in East Europe? Perhaps. However, is the United States forgetting that Latin Americans will continue to border it? That its very stability hinges to a great extent on stability in Latin American countries?

The United States does not have to worry, because Latin American countries, subjugated with repression and brute force and having a minimum of, quote, stability, unquote, do not now represent a threat to U.S. stability. The time will come, however, when this situation will no longer be able to be controlled.

Thus, we are concerned, we should be concerned about the U.S. attitude toward the Latin American and Caribbean countries. We are concerned about the U.S. attitude toward Panama. We condemned the U.S. invasion of Panama. We disagreed with that invasion. The United States, however, embroiled its prestige in the invasion of Panama. The United States has military bases in Panama. The canal, which is a strategic point of transit, is located in Panama. There we have, however, Panamanian President Endara currently living in a church and fasting because Panama's economy is sinking.

I believe that is the best demonstration of the lack of sensitivity—I am not talking about human or Christian sensitivity—the lack of political and pragmatic sensitivity on the part of the United States, which is turning a blind eye to the explosive situation that Latin American countries are experiencing. After having invaded Panama with its troops, after having paid a high political cost with the Latin American countries as a result of that military intervention, and despite the existence of its military bases and the canal in Panama, the United States now forces President Endara to carry out a peaceful protest, fasting because his country's economy is sinking.

If the United States does not even have the political foresight or the pragmatic sensitivity to understand that it is necessary to give money to Panama to stabilize it, especially in view of the fact that Panama is a sensitive spot for the United States, what can the other Latin American nations expect from U.S. political foresight and pragmatic sensitivity? We can only expect words, congratulatory messages, and notes. Words, congratulatory messages, and notes, however, do not solve the serious economic problems that the Latin American and Caribbean countries are experiencing. Those very problems are closely linked to the political rights, public freedoms, and freedom of expression of the Latin American people.

I wanted to discuss these issues with you, friends of the IAPA, who during the more or less 10 years since the triumph of the revolution have been concerned about freedom of the press throughout Latin America and about freedom of the press in Nicaragua.

I want to point out that in Nicaragua, despite the great tension caused by the war, despite the harsh measures adopted that affected written and voice media, the Sandinists struggled so there was a pluralist regime, with freedom of expression, a mixed economy, and a nonaligned nation. That was our objective before the triumph of the revolution, without reaching any settlement or agreement with any political party, but with the firm belief that this was the most suitable model for Nicaragua.

Prior to the triumph of the revolution, we made a call to form a broad government junta. Quote: We called on political figures that might be willing to contribute to the period of transition our country had to go through under

the junta of the government of national reconstruction. We called on Mrs. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, and she agreed to be a member of the junta of the government of national reconstruction. She knew also how to uphold worthy positions when—during the negotiations that were being held with the U.S. representative weeks before the revolution's victory—[the U.S. representative] tried to impose an expansion of the junta and other proposals. She rejected those proposals. Unquote. I mentioned this a few months ago, during the 10th anniversary of the Sandinist People's Revolution on 19 July 1989, and I am recalling it today. Natural tensions that accompany a revolution emerged. Rather, I would say that natural tensions that emerge with a revolution did not occur, because natural tensions that emerge with a revolution lead people to adopt extreme measures in which the winners end up eliminating the losers. This has been the history of revolutions throughout the world, including the French Revolution—the 200th anniversary of which we commemorated last year—and all other known revolutions, and the violence that emerged in the United States when it was struggling for its independence.

Therefore, I would say that the Sandinist Revolution was atypical because, although it is true that thousands of Somozist guards were sent to prison—even though they had perpetrated crimes and had become rich and had money deposited in banks abroad—they were later released. I remember that right after the triumph, the first people who received amnesty were prominent Somozists who were released because of age. Among those released was a well known woman whose name is, or was—I do not know if she is still alive—Nicolasa Sevilla. In other words, the desire to take revenge did not prevail because detainees were not sent to jail.

When the Central American presidents reached the August 1987 agreements, there were still many Somozist guards imprisoned in Nicaragua. On the other hand, there were no prisoners in other Central American prisons, because—regardless of what the rulers wanted—most of those prisoners had been murdered. Here we have released all of the Somozist guards, including those who murdered national heroes, including those who murdered my brother Camilo, including those who tortured me, including those who kept me imprisoned for seven years and one month. All of them have been released, including those who kept many of our Sandinist militants and fighters in prison.

They did not allow us to read any newspapers, not even their own newspapers. They did not allow us to watch television or listen to the radio. They did not allow us to see our relatives. They kept us isolated. We have released all of them.

It is true that there have been many tensions—in the social field, in the political field, in the economic field—but these tensions are related to the U.S. aggression that has harmed our national pride and our national dignity. We wonder why we must now force ourselves to negotiations that are imposed by U.S. policy.

We have worked with a Latin American spirit and this led to the Contadora negotiations process. Later, this led to the Central American presidents negotiating and adopting our own decisions regardless and against U.S. political desires. The Central American presidents signed agreements in which we pledged to support each other. One of these agreements—the last one—explicitly points out and gives dates for the counterrevolutionaries to be demobilized and disarmed, last year.

A 90-day deadline was set following the signing of the agreements by the Central American presidents in the meeting in Tela, Honduras. There we set a 90-day deadline. The deadline expired, the contras did not demobilize, and Nicaragua did not—I did not—insist on the fact that the contras were not being demobilized. I could have said then that since the contras were not complying, we were not obliged to comply. To the contrary, we continued to work to comply and demand that others also comply.

On 25 February, we reached the culmination of this entire process, fulfilling all of our own proposals—that is, a multiparty system, a mixed economy, and nonaligment—strengthened by the support of the Central American presidents and strengthened by the support of the international community so the war would come to an end, once and for all. We reached this goal so the contras would be demobilized and disarmed, so the United States would lift the embargo against Nicaragua. We reached this goal so the United States would stop financing the contras and immediately transfer that financing to the United Nations, the OAS, and the CIAV [International Commission of Support and Verification]—the organization created to demobilize the contras, with all due guarantees and security. This should be done with certain economic safeguards, so those who wish to return to Nicaragua can be repatriated and so those who do not wish to return to Nicaragua can be relocated in other countries.

Nicaragua has made good its word. As president of the Nicaraguan people, I am proud I did my part. It is now the other side's turn to do their part. The counterrevolutionaries must be disarmed and disbanded. I even extended the cease-fire after 25 February to faciliate a more rapid demobilization and disarming of the contras, but they violated this cease-fire. They are now ravaging for vengeance. They think it is time to get back at the peasants who have resisted the actions of the counterrevolutionaries in the mountains of Nicaragua.

They think the time has come to get back at the Sandinists who created the revolution that removed the Somozist National Guard from power. They think the time has come for heads to roll. However, I believe that the Nicaraguan people, all Nicaraguans, all the people who voted on 25 February for the old political options that were presented before them, voted for peace. Not

one vote was cast for war. The contras must think deeply about the steps they are taking, because I am sure that the best thing for them and for Nicaragua would be for them to demobilize and disarm immediately. This way peace would come to our country sooner and security for all Nicaragua would be guaranteed. On the other hand, I am also fully convinced that all of us Nicaraguans who voted for peace on 25 February are prepared to close ranks and not let the contras and the [Somozist] Guard come and destroy what has cost our people so much to build—that is, the real possibility of strengthening democracy and having minimum political stability for us to be able to work and rebuild our country.

The United States bears heavy responsibility for this. The U.S. presidents created the contras, financed them, and armed them. They also continue to send so-called humanitarian aid. Why are the U.S. President and the U.S. Congress taking their time to order that these funds—and the law that allows them—that the contras receive as humanitarian aid be immediately transferred to the United Nations and the OAS so these organizations can be strong enough to go to the contra camps and tell the contras: Here are the funds. You have the opportunity and the full assistance of our offices to immediately start work on demobilizing and disarming the contras, repatriating those who want to return to Nicaragua, and relocating the rest to other countries.

Why is the Honduran Government taking its time making a firm decision to expel the contras from its territory? We are experiencing a very difficult and delicate situation. The progress this real possibility may make in consolidating the democratic process and in continuing to develop and enrich it will be contingent upon the maturity of all political forces and upon the maturity of the rulers and the ruled. Moreover, it will not be contingent upon us alone, but on the strong attitude the U.S. Government could adopt against the contras so they are demobolized and disarmed at once, as well as the strong attitude the Honduran Government could adopt.

Regardless of the tension that arose all these years in the media, the truth is that for some time this situation has been normal. In Nicaragua, we have a substantially balanced freedom of expression. We have newspapers that defend the most varied of political and ideological stances. There are newspapers with opposing political and ideological stances that have the opportunity to present their own options and proposals to the people.

There are many media, including radio stations, that are owned by private citizens. There are newscasts. I have some data with regard to radio newscasts in Nicaragua. We have 52 radio newscasts here in Nicaragua. Approximately 67 percent of those radio newscasts are privately produced. In addition, in Managua alone, 93 percent of the radio newscasts are privately generated.

As for the printed media, we have 32 publications in Nicaragua. Of those publications, 81 percent—in other words, 26 publications—are owned by the private sector. Those publications include 14 magazines, seven newspapers and weeklies, etc.

Our television stations are owned by the state. In fact, heeding demands from the various sectors of national journalism, from the Union of Nicaraguan Journalists—UPN—from media owners, from newspaper owners, and other Nicaraguan journalists holding different political and ideological positions, I am taking steps to send to the National Assembly a decree-law to repeal the media law. In other words, we will no longer have a media law in Nicaragua. [applause] There will not be any kind of restriction except the responsibility of reporters to practice journalism. Let this not become the law of the jungle, but become the law of reason, the law of maturity, the law of partriotism. The practice of journalism will depend on the sensibility of each Nicaraguan journalist. The repeal of the media law will automatically allow the existence of privately-owned television stations. [applause] Thus, we will also have privately-owned television stations in Nicaragua.

Throughout the years, our country has been open to the foreign press. I would say that we have had very few problems with foreign reporters concerning press restrictions in our country. We have had very few such problems. It is true that there have been a few cases, but only a few.

We have had an average of 282 foreign reporters living in Nicaragua. We have had correspondents from 30 press agencies, 30 foreign newspapers, 21 foreign magazines, 19 foreign television stations, and 13 foreign radio stations. They have been here constantly, covering news from Nicaragua without any kind of restrictions. True there have been some problems with some reporters, but I would say that those cases have been the exception. Foreign reporters have their own press club here. They could assess the opportunities they have had here in Nicaragua to practice journalism throughout the years of the revolutionary Sandinist government. A total of 1,726 foreign reporters, including permanent media correspondents, covered the Nicaraguan election process.

I want to tell our friends in the IAPA that after 25 April I will be in the opposition. I will be part of a constructive and not a destructive opposition. I will not act in the same way in which the opposition acted against my government. I always faced an opposition that maintained a completely destructive attitude. That opposition never granted recognition to any of the actions of my government. The opposition to my government described all of my government actions as bad.

The opposition media were also very hard in this respect. They never recognized positive aspects in the government's work, they always viewed it in a negative manner. I can explain this because of the state of polarization in which the country found itself. I can find an explanation for it. I have not come here to try to blame anyone, but I did want to point this out. That will not be the attitude

that I will assume after 25 April, nor will that be the attitude to be assumed by Sandinism, which emerges from these elections as the largest party of Nicaragua, as the largest political force in Nicaragua. Therefore, we have the responsibility of guaranteeing that what has been achieved throughout the years in all aspects will not only be saved, maintained, preserved, but also strengthened and developed. In this field I am going to be a firm defender of freedom of expression in our country. There must not be any thought of taking away freedom of expression or freedom of communication from the new social, political, and economic forces that arose with the revolution. Instead, an effort must be made to consolidate all the opportunities that have been won in the press, on the radio, in the newspapers, and in all the Nicaraguan dailies, such as BARRICADA, EL NUEVO DIARIO, LA PRENSA. An effort must be made to achieve consolidation and development of newspapers, to achieve consolidation and development of radio stations, and to achieve consolidation and development of the programs that permit the people to air their opinions, that have opened the pages of the newspapers, and that have placed microphones at the service of the people. In this way Nicaragua will gain enrichment with more television channels in which the people can always opt for different proposals and different alternatives, so television channels will not become monopolies of any ideological, political force. Rather, the channels will become the instrument that permits the people to learn of the various options and various proposals, and that above all, grants the people the possibility—a right the people have won with their sacrifice and struggle—of continuing to air their messages through the media. We will continue to struggle from below. As I have said, we will continue to govern from below with the people. Of course, we will enjoy the people's support to the extent that our measures are right. The new government will also have the support of both the people and the FSLN in everything that will benefit the country and the people. The proposal that has been made to the people in this respect has been in that direction. There has not been any proposal to bring back Somozism, to bring back the counterrevolution. No party has made any such proposal. Logically, during an electoral campaign, messages become heated, speeches become heated, but the truth is that no political party has presented the people the option of a return to Somozism.

I want to say and render tribute to all those who have patriotically participated in this action in Nicaragua of strengthening democracy to pull the country ahead. To the mothers of those who were slain, to the mothers of heroes and martyrs, to the mothers...[changes thought] I even pointed out that the victims of the war are not just those who fell defending the revolution. Those who fell fighting along with the counterrevolutionaries are also victims of the war. Those people could have been working, doing something better for the country, if they had not been given money and weapons to engage in war.

The mothers—the Nicaraguan families—are the ones who have suffered the most. That is why I render homage to all mothers. I render homage to the mothers of the kidnapped persons. I cannot forget the mothers of the kidnapped persons, because many who were kidnapped by the contras are still reported missing. We will now have to increase our efforts so those missing persons are found.

I have a made commitment to continue to struggle for freedom of expression, a commitment to continue to struggle for the possibilities that the Nicaraguan people will have the right to express themselves, the right to speak, the right to voice their opinions on radio and television and in newspapers. This is a commitment that I made from the time I began this struggle against the Somozist dictatorship, and it is a commitment that I will honor to the day I die. That is the commitment of all Nicaraguans, and that is the commitment of all the people.

If we honor that pledge, I can state as of now that freedom of the press is guaranteed and assured in Nicaragua. Thank you. [applause]

Ortega Warns of Possible 'People's Uprising'

PA0703160790 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1334 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Madrid, 7 Mar (EFE)—Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] leader Daniel Ortega has stated that he is not afraid of a coup d'etat, only of a people's uprising following the turnover of power to the National Opposition Union (UNO), which won the elections in Nicaragua.

In statements published in the most recent edition of the Spanish weekly CAMBIO 16, Ortega stresses that the people did not vote for the counterrevolution and Somozism but for an option that brings them peace and economic stability.

Any change in another direction will provoke an uprising, which can occur at any moment, the Nicaraguan president stated.

Ortega said that the FSLN is more united than ever and that it is working so a people's uprising does not occur.

He added that the Army and the Interior Ministry are points of balance in Nicaraguan society. They guarantee security for all citizens and even guarantee the strengthening the democratic framework that has been created by the revolution.

Ortega recognized the existence of secondary problems within the party and the government in the elections, but he emphasized that the main problem was that the elections were not just or equitable because their opponent was the U.S. Government—which grabbed the people by the necks, put a gun to their heads, and told them: If you vote for the FSLN, the war will continue.

Ortega said: I respect Mrs. Chamorro and the important thing is that both she and her entire government team are

convinced that we need each other here to develop and stabilize the country, or else there will be chaos and the country will be ungovernable.

Chamorro To 'Make Japan Her First Stop Abroad'

OW0603121790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1200 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Managua, March 6 KYODO—Nicaraguan President-elect Violeta Chamorro said she would cut the nation's armed forces and would make Japan her first stop abroad after assuming office. [passage omitted]

Chamorro said her visit to Japan would occur when "the political situation stabilizes...within this year," adding she wished to "build a democratic nation like Japan."

Japan's spontaneous friendship and support, she said, could help rebuild her war-torn nation.

Three of Chamorro's advisers are set to leave for Japan on Thursday [8 March] to discuss prospects for renewing foreign aid frozen after the Sandinistas toppled dictator Anastasio Somoza in 1979.

Japan provided financial backing and sent six election observers to aid efforts by the United Nations and others to ensure fair balloting in the vote. [passage omitted]

UNO's Fletes Comments on Transition Issues

PA0703025390 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Interview with Adan Fletes Valle, National Opposition Union, UNO, leader and president of the Social Christian Party, by reporter on "The Awakening" program; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] This morning "The Awakening" will feature Adan Fletes Valle, Social Christian leader of UNO, who seems the most probable candidate for president of the National Assembly. We want to know his views about the current situation in Nicaraguan politics, as teams from the incumbent and the newly elected governments discuss protocol for the transfer of power.

According to the Sandinist commanders, the teams are not discussing just matters of protocol, but major issues. They must be, because there is talk that the alternative to order is chaos and one can see that the Sandinists are assigning priority to what they describe as the integrity of the armed forces. In other words, the Sandinists are introducing a criterion or rule according to which the new government headed by Dona Violeta Chamorro will have no power whatsoever to reshuffle the military commands.

The situation is also marked by disturbances, hostility, and attacks on opposition leaders. The question is, therefore, whether the two months remaining for the transfer of power will pass calmly or if there is a danger the country's situation will deteriorate. We want to know what Fletes thinks about this?

[Fletes] First, I want to thank you, Freddy, for this opportunity to discuss matters of national interest. I believe the country was right to vote for UNO. Had it voted otherwise the war would have continued. Suffice it to see what the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] is doing after losing the elections. It is destroying state-run enterprises, to turn over bankrupt enterprises and a bankrupt state to UNO.

The Sandinists are producing an inflationary process that is entirely inconsistent with sound economic policy by granting salary raises they never granted during the FSLN's years in power. We believe that the workers' standard of living must be improved, but within a harmonious economic policy. The Sandinists are raising them, but under a policy of revenge. They are destroying the economy and arming their militants. References abound about names, addresses, and houses in various places in the country where arms have been delivered to civilians. That is why they are talking about civil war. Had they won the elections, they would be talking about war between one country and another and the situation of chaos would be even worse. Thank God the people voted for UNO.

The other element I can think of is that the Sandinists must respect the people's will and sovereignty. In other words, they must respect the full results of the elections and strictly abide by the Constitution. The question is not to negotiate a share of power with the FSLN. The question is that the FSLN must abide by the results of the elections and the people's will, and submit also to the political Constitution. We did not invent this Constitution. They tailored it to their desires and tastes. What is happening is that the Constitution is boomeranging on their interests.

Therefore, the transition between the old and new governments must involve discussions on protocol matters. If necessary, there must also be a dialogue also on the national coexistence that we must develop after 25 April. I believe all of us politicians are amenable to this. The FSLN has seriously harmed Nicaragua and wants to go on harming it. Its strength has eroded. It actually has less than 40 percent of the votes in Nicaragua. UNO has been the victim of a fraudulent policy during the electoral process. The electoral process reflected 90,000 null votes. We have firm reports that the balloting was tampered with at the regional councils, that UNO's votes were turned into null votes, and that other votes were turned into valid votes for the FSLN.

That is why we have had problems in some regions. In Region No. 4, for instance, results show that we have one less deputy; in Region No. 1, as well. The same happened in the Atlantic region and it could only happen if the last stage of the electoral process was rigged.

[Reporter] The big news early today is that the contras have decided to demobilize and are going to open a dialogue [with the government]. Has this resulted from any new turn in the country's political scene?

[Fletes] It is important to open avenues of dialogue with all sectors interested in Nicaragua's problems. We think that the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] has been a constant issue in Nicaragua's political history because of the military conflict that has taken place. Now there is complete irony in this case. For many months, the Ortega administration had been saying that the contras were completely defeated and it now turns out, judging from statements by the Sandinists themselves, that the contras had not been defeated, but were out there and are still a problem pending solution.

This shows that the Sandinists had not solved the problem of war and peace in Nicaragua and that Dona Violeta's new government will have to solve it. This shows also that, without question, if the Sandinists had won these elections through fraud we would not have been able to achieve peace in Nicaragua. This confirms once more that the UNO administration will have all the necessary conditions to straighten out these difficulties. I am absolutely certain that, insofar as this aspect is concerned, peace is a fact in Nicaragua and that the issue of the military service will also be settled after 25 April.

In their propaganda, the Sandinists are now trying to make people believe that the new government will not have the capacity to fulfill its commitments. They have made this topic a specific issue. However, the population does not believe the Sandinists. The people do not believe anything they say and they—that is, the Nicaraguan people—are completely certain that UNO and the UNO government have the capacity to solve not only the problem of war and peace, but that of military service. We can solve them through the National Assembly, and will solve the economic crisis, as well. The Sandinists would not like UNO to be able to get the financial resources to change the economic picture in Nicaragua. However, we will succeed because we have teams already seeking international economic cooperation. We will get the cooperation because the government and UNO are presenting to the world the image of an entirely different government that will fulfill its commitment to make sound and productive investments in Nicaragua.

The UNO government does not have the handicap [preceding word in English] the Sandinists had. People were afraid to give money to the Sandinists because they felt it would be funneled into the military sector. There is no such fear in the case of UNO. Everyone knows that UNO is not warlike and that any money, international resources, or foreign exchange it receives will be passed on to the social and productive sectors of the national economy.

[Reporter] You have said that the Constitution the Sandinists approved will now revert to them. I presume you refer to the powers bestowed upon the president. However, with regard to this Constitution, which by the way is not democratic, I understand you will be trying to reform or change it. Here is where you will have the great problem of not having the required number of votes. What do you intend to do?

[Fletes] It is true that the Constitution the Sandinists approved is not democratic. It is also true that discussion within the FSLN was moved to the National Assembly, which gave great powers to President Ortega, because this was part of the FSLN's internal squabbling. Although this Constitution favors the president a great deal, it is not the same having this Constitution with an undemocratic president as it is having it with a democratic president. It is not the same having a constitution that favors the president with Daniel Ortega as it is with Violeta. Because Violeta is a person with democratic leanings, her application of that presidential power will be much more democratic than what we had in this last administration.

Undoubtedly, we all believe the Constitution needs reforming to democratize it, to better balance the branches of government. That is a task UNO has ahead of it. This task involves partial reforms—total reforms are even more difficult. We do not have the required number of votes to carry out these reforms. I am also sure that the Sandinists, as a political party, are not going to give UNO the votes needed, because it is in their interest for the Constitution to be that way because they are thinking of their return to power.

We do believe that within the FSLN ranks we may get certain people who may be willing to help democratize the Constitution. If one looks over the list of elected deputies, one can pick out certain people to whom one may talk to try to attain this goal. We are not ruling out this possibility. There are some who are radicals, but there are others who have democratic principles and have said over the years that they have the political will to recognize that Nicaragua needs to be democratized; in addition, the FSLN's own structures require democratization.

We are going to discuss these partial reforms with national political forces and will try and resolve this together. There is however, another important point: We could even hold a referendum to see whether or not the constitution needs to be reformed in full or not. This could be voted on, as this is provided for in the constitution. The constitution mentions the possibility of a referendum or a plebiscite. The Sandinists, however, want to discuss the topic from the arms vantage point, by arming the people or threatening people with chaos or civil war. Instead, we propose to the Sandinists—we may carry this out whenever we believe it necessary—to hold a referendum or plebiscite in Nicaragua on the country's basic topics, so the people may definitely decide on them. The Sandinists better take up this new electoral challenge or else they must submit to the political constitution. The Sandinists are not the sole owners of all resources.

This country's civic forces also have instruments to allow themselves to be heard. All the Sandinists are doing right now is transferring this problem. Because they know they have an internal problem, they must blame someone for their defeat and they know very well that each blames the

other. Therefore, to shift the problem away and avoid internal squabblings, they try to create a problem with the political forces that are not similar to them. The Sandinist problem, beginning on 25 April, is going to change and become an internal problem. They have many difficulties. Losing power has made these difficulties worse. What has also happened is that one of the Sandinist sectors knows very well that they are defeated and that they are responsible for their defeat because they governed badly. Now they are trying to improve conditions, making it appear among their own people that they are part of a negotiating process in which they will emerge as winners.

Then they coined a phrase that we used during the electoral campaign, in which we said that UNO governed from the opposition, which was true. UNO was governing from the opposition because we were on the verge of an electoral process that gave UNO its victory.

The FSLN cannot do the same as UNO did because the FSLN is not an emerging movement, but one that is eroding. The FSLN mobilization of the masses in the neighborhoods is getting smaller and smaller. In addition, they no longer have the Sandinist apparatus in their hands to feed them. The pace of the weakening of the FSLN structures will begin to quicken from 25 April onwards.

[Reporter] President Ortega is giving the appearance of wanting to revamp his image, attending masses for peace, showing a religious faith that was not known to him until recently.

[Fletes] We do not criticize Commander Daniel Ortega's possible conversion. He led a government that persecuted religion—not only Catholics, but others as well. We all remember this and do not need to be reminded. If he wants to convert—we have seen him going to mass and he has a somewhat different behavior—he must also convert his party because he heads that party. Commander Daniel Ortega goes to mass alone—none of the other eight commanders accompany him. This is a serious matter, because the entire FSLN directorate should convert. If Commander Ortega is the only one to convert, this obviously proves that there are significant differences in the FSLN's directorate. In addition, he, as head of the opposition party, should seek ways for his party to become more democratic. His party should abandon the policy of destroying state enterprises, of arming the people. Ortega's behavior is not congruent with what the FSLN is doing. He even runs the risk of the people not believing his conversion process. If people do not believe this, it will undoubtedly affect his already deteriorated image much more.

[Reporter] We thank Adan Fletes Valle for his statements. As we have already said, he will probably be the next president of the Nicaraguan National Assembly.

Businessman Seeks Independent TV Station, News

PA0703043390 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Interview with Carlos Briceno Lobo, president of Nicaraguan Television, Limited, Telenica, by unidentified reporter in Managua on 6 March—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Here is Carlos Briceno with us.

[Briceno] A few hours ago we presented a request to the government authorities asking them to grant us a license to open the first independent television station in Nicaragua. This is something very important. This license should be granted as soon as possible, because television will become the most important and strongest tool in the promotion of the country's democratization. Therefore, I hope the Interior Ministry will adopt the necessary measures and will facilitate this process so we begin working on the installation of the new television station soon.

The installation of a television station is a costly and long project. If the government moves quickly, Nicaraguans could have and enjoy another television station within a few months. Nicaragua desperately needs a new television station at present.

I want to congratulate President Ortega for the decision he has made. The truth is, however, that this is another triumph of the Nicaraguan people. The people won on 25 February and they won again today, because this decision was made as a result of the people's demand for a change, for the liberalization of the media, and for the people's right to have access to television, which is a very important medium.

[Reporter] Can you tell us more about the new Televisora Nicaraguense, Telenica?

[Briceno] It is basically a large and costly project. It will cost approximately $2.5 million [words indistinct]. The project has the support of various Nicaraguan groups, including the Catholic Church, and the private sector, of course. A number of people have already called me to express their interest in investing in this project. It is a national project. It is not a project run by one, two, or three people. It is a project involving many people who believe and know that a television station is a crucial tool—as I said before—to expand the political opening we have in Nicaragua now. Democracy is not built in one day. We did not build democracy on 25 February. It can take five or 10 years to build democracy. Television will play a basic role in the construction of the Nicaraguan democracy.

We have approximately 200,000 television sets in Nicaragua and a minimum viewing audience of five people for each television set, or in other words, a potential television audience of 1 million people. No other medium, including radio and the press, has the large potential audience that television will have.

In the same way that we celebrated our triumph on 25 February, all Nicaraguans, especially journalists and all those who know, have faith in, and love freedom of the press, should celebrate today.

[Reporter] Carlos, your request addressed to Lieutenant Lisette Torres [director of the Media General Directorate] was sent today. Given that Lt. Torres answers this request tomorrow or the day after and issues a permit allowing the installation of this new television station, when do you more or less expect to be serving the Nicaraguan people?

[Briceno] The part that will take more time will be the installation of the transmission tower. Depending on the rapidity with which the tower is installed, we could be on the air in approximately four, five, or six months. Of course, this will depend on the speed with which the government handles the process and on the time we take to introduce the necessary equipment into the country. Thus, in a few months we could be enjoying an independent and free television station. We will have an aggressive, free, and balanced newscast. Our newscast will be the pride of the Nicaraguan people.

[Reporter] We also heard that you asked Channel Six [Sistema Sandinista Television Network] to authorize the transmission of an independent newscast on that channel.

[Briceno] That is right. In addition to requesting a license for a new television station, we asked television Channel Six to sell us time to broadcast a newscast to give Nicaraguans another choice. In this way, we would begin showing a balanced and completely impartial—politically speaking—newscast to the Nicaraguan people. We hope they respond to our request so our newscast can be on the air soon. If they respond to us this week and agree to our request, I would say that we could have a truly independent newscast by next week.

[Reporter] Thank you, Carlos Briceno Lobo. We congratulate you for the gigantic work you will conduct in Nicaragua.

Panama

Endara Continues Fast; Conducts Interview

PA0603185590 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1300 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Telephone interview with President Guillermo Endara by unidentified station reporter from Endara's office at the Metropolitan Cathedral in Panama City—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Greetings, Mr. President, we would like your first words to be on your condition. How do you feel on this sixth day of fasting?

[Endara] Thank you for worrying about my health. Thank God, I feel very well; I feel strong; I fell well. I do have hunger cramps which are only natural when fasting, but that is precisely what I want to share with the people of Panama who are suffering hunger; share the pain that hunger gives you; but, thank God, otherwise I am very well.

[Reporter] Mr. President, how much longer are you willing to go on with this fast? Until when?

[Endara] As you may know, this fast is fundamentally Lenten and has religious characteristics. Thus, it is a matter of conscience; I will go on with the fast until my conscience tells me to, and when my conscience tells me otherwise, I will end the fast and ... will end the fast, but I think that it will go on for several more days.

[Reporter] Mr. President, there is something else, besides the many persons who are coming to the cathedral to express their support for you, there are also groups which are criticizing your attitude. They say that while the country is in crisis, you are on a fast and that this does not help. What do you think?

[Endara] Those people have been misinformed. They think that I am here fasting, and doing nothing except looking and sobbing. That is not true. I could even say that here I am working more than at the Presidency, because I do all the work I did when at the presidency, such as meeting with ministers, meeting groups, dealing with problems that come up on a national scale. I do all the work I did at the presidency, signing all the decrees, dictating resolutions and orders; but also since many persons come to visit me, I meet with all the people I can, I greet them, I see them, I maintain contact with the people. I think that the only fundamental change is the change of atmosphere. I have renounced the comforts, the luxuries given to me by the Presidency of the Republic; to come to the cathedral, where there is no air-conditioning, while at the presidency there is good air-conditioning; they serve me excellent food because there is an excellent cook and a good kitchen and good food; I renounce all that because I believe that as president, I must not, with a country undergoing so much suffering, with so many unemployed and hungry, it is not fair for me to enjoy those luxuries. I moved to the cathedral, not to leave the Presidency of the Republic, the duties of the president of the Republic, but to continue them with the same impetus and the same force. The people who are saying such things think that I am not doing a thing, they do not know what they are saying.

[Reporter] Thank you very much, Mr. President. And taking advantage of this conversation with you, as a member of the Catholic community that comes to the Metropolitan Cathedral, I would like to point out that this is a good opportunity for you, as president, to notice the bad shape of our first Catholic Church, the Metropolitan Cathedral, so you may take note and the government may give some help to the cathedral. Another question we have, Mr. President, to end this interview that you have so kindly granted to RPC, is about the

statements published by some media about a possible trip you may make to the United States. Could you give us some more information?

[Endara] Since January, I have had great interest in traveling to the United States, mainly to promote their aid plan; that is a proposal made by President Bush, very generous by the way. The idea still exists, except that I have postponed it. I am talking to American authorities to decide the most favorable time to go. I understand that the idea is for me to go at the end of March or the beginning of April; no date has been set yet.

[Reporter] Thank you very much. Those were the words of President Guillermo Endara Galimany, directly from the Metropolitan Cathedral, where today he goes into his sixth day of fasting in solidarity with the suffering Panamanians. Mr. President, thank you very much and go on.

Dismisses Coup Possibility

PA0603225590 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1759 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Panama City, 6 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian President Guillermo Endara has disregarded any possibility of the new Panamanian police attempting to stage a coup and imposing governments similar to those of Generals Omar Torrijos and Manuel Antonio Noriega.

However, Endara told ACAN-EFE today, he, "like every other president," guards his back. He added: "Although I appear to be a very mild person, I always watch everything."

Endara made these remarks at the end of a half-hour interview with Michael Kozak, a special delegate of the U.S. State Department, and U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton at the Metropolitan Cathedral, where the president has been fasting since 1 March.

Commenting on remarks by Civic Crusade leaders, who said that the new Public Force, which has been formed with the members of Noriega's army, might stage a coup, Endara stated: "I believe the National Police will not do that."

Panamanian First Vice President Ricardo Arias also dismissed the possibility of a coup. During a meeting with industrialists and businessmen last night, Arias said the new Public Force "has not been formed against the military men, but with them. This will prevent resentment, frustration, and possible coups."

Endara also told ACAN-EFE this morning that his conversation with Hinton and Kozak "did not deal with any special subjects. Only diplomatic topics were touched upon."

Admitting that the delay in delivering the promised U.S. economic aid was indeed discussed; Endara did not give any additional details.

At the end of their visit to Endara, Kozak and Hinton declined to make any statements for the press.

The Panamanian president also said he intends to fly to the United States in late March or early April to meet with U.S. politicians and deliver a speech at the U.S. Congress, on which depends to a large extent the delivery of the $1 billion in economic aid promised by President George Bush.

Endara also announced that he will propose to the Panamanian Legislative Assembly several constitutional amendments to smooth over the "unpleasant side effects of the dictatorship." He said that these amendments, once approved by the Assembly, will be submitted to the people in a "referendum."

In addition, Endara told ACAN-EFE that he has been studying the Costa Rican Constitution, which he will use "as a model."

Attorney General On Former President's Status

PA0603235490 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2313 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Interview with Attorney General Rogelio Cruz Rios by unidentified reporter in Panama City on 6 March—recorded]

[Text] [Cruz] Mr. Manuel Solis Palma has decided to abandon his status as guest of the Venezuelan Embassy and submit himself to Panamanian jurisdiction.

[Reporter] What will the Attorney General's Office do regarding all the charges brought against him?

[Cruz] He is facing two charges. We are investigating them, and, as in all the other cases, we will conclude our inquiry and then forward the results to the judicial branch.

[Reporter] Has any warrant for the arrest of Mr. Solis Palma been issued?

[Cruz] Not at this time.

[Reporter] Can he move freely about Panama's streets?

[Cruz] Yes.

[Reporter] As far as Mr. Solis Palma is concerned, can your office expedite the procedures to bring him to the Panamanian courts?

[Cruz] He has already gone before a judge. We have two months to conclude the inquiry. I am sure that we will conclude our work before the deadline runs out.

[Reporter] Can he leave the country?

[Cruz] I do not think he can.

[Reporter] You do not think so, based on law, or is it that he cannot leave the country?

[Cruz] I do not think he can.

[Reporter] He cannot or should not?

[Cruz] He cannot.

[Reporter] On what do you base your statement?

[Cruz] On the law and on what his files indicate.

Ex-Bank Manager Seeks Refuge in Mexican Embassy

PA0603222290 Paris AFP in Spanish 1944 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Panama City, 6 Mar (AFP)—Diplomatic sources have reported that Rafael Arosemena, former manager of the state-run Banco Nacional de Panama, who has been accused by the authorities of fraudulently managing state funds, today took refuge in the Mexican Embassy.

Attorney General Rogelio Cruz has confirmed the report. Arosemena was manager of the Banco Nacional during the regime of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, who was overthrown by U.S. troops in December.

According to reports, Arosemena was implicated in the use of the Banco Nacional's reserve funds for the benefit of Marco Justines, former chief of the General Staff of the Panama Defense Forces, who is currently in jail.

Former President Manuel Solis Palma, against whom charges have also been filed, has been in the Venezuelan Embassy for two months. [sentence as received]

The Panamanian Foreign Ministry has denied safe-conduct passes to former legislator Luis Gomez, who is at the residence of the Cuban ambassador to Panama; to Luis Gaitan, former Noriega bodyguard, who is in refuge at the Apostolic Nunciature; and to Majors Heraclides Sucre and Gonzalo Gonzalez, who are in the Peruvian Embassy.

PTJ Director Blames Recent Deaths on Drug War

PA0703032690 Paris AFP in Spanish 0625 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Panama City, 5 Mar (AFP)—The Technical Judicial Police [PTJ] today said that the Colombian and Panamanian mafias are fighting over control of the local drug market, which is why there have been several deaths over the past few days.

Before the U.S. military invasion, which defeated General Manuel Noriega on 20 December, "the Colombians were the drug barons," but Panamanian criminals later armed themselves with high-caliber weapons allowing them to organize and compete with the foreigners for market control, PTJ director Leslie Loaiza explained.

The gangs handle sums in the millions and there are constant fights among them, he added.

In view of this situation, the PTJ and the U.S. Army will soon begin a joint operation "to get all the criminals out of circulation," Loaiza said.

The new Panamanian authorities maintain that the dismantled Defense Force led by Noriega, who is currently being held in a U.S. prison on drug trafficking charges, distributed a large number of weapons among the people, and these weapons are presumably now being used by the lawbreakers.

Over the past two months, the number of assaults and armed robberies has increased, despite the vigilance of the Panamanian Public Force and U.S. military patrols.

PTJ Chief Loaiza Interviewed on Crime Situation

PA0703042590 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Feb 90 p 1

[Report on interview with Captain Leslie Loaiza, Technical Judicial Police, PTJ, chief, by Nubia Aparicio S. in Panama City—date not given]

[Text] Captain Leslie Loaiza has told the newspaper LA PRENSA that it is necessary to dismiss some of the members of the Technical Judicial Police [PTJ]. Loaiza added that when he became the chief of the PTJ, the former DENI [National Department of Investigations], he knew that there were members "who not only should not belong to that institution, but who should be put behind bars."

The PTJ chief stated that he conducted investigations of those members and tested their behavior, particularly in the narcotics area. Of the 72 men who worked in the DENI Narcotics Section before 20 December, only eight remain there now. In Loaiza's opinion, those eight men had not been contaminated. "I fired all the others," Loaiza asserted.

Loaiza added: "All those who have been charged with some kind of crime and, whose guilt has been proven, have been discharged...I not only discharged men for their involvement in drug crimes, but also for their involvement in torture."

According to Loaiza, it is possible to still have PTJ members who have committed minor crimes, "but we are giving them an opportunity. They are still with us, but anyone wishing to file charges and present due evidence against any of them can do so. We will gladly attend to their accusations, but we need evidence, because it is not a matter of accusing people for the sake of accusing."

Loaiza asserted that he has already conducted a significant, preliminary purging operation within the PTJ. Loaiza stated that approximately 100 of the 600 PTJ members throughout the country were fired and that he cannot deny that there are honest officials who never carried out evil actions and who conducted very good investigations.

Asked whether the paramilitary gangs that are now attacking people and stores are the same ones that operated during the previous regime, Loaiza answered that "the ones that are currently carrying out attacks consist of criminals who have already been identified."

Loaiza said that he has conducted investigations of the gangs that existed during the previous regime and that those were not gangs of paramilitarymen, "but gangs consisting of active members of the Defense Forces [FDP]." Loaiza recalled that at one point there was a gang that robbed many stores in the neighborhood of San Francisco and that "the chief of that gang was an FDP sergeant...I arrested him. I presented evidence supporting my investigations and he was dimissed and placed at the disposal of the authorities."

Loaiza also referred to the case of an FPD corporal who raped women when they were on the ramp next to the Union Club with their boyfriends. The corporal would point the gun at a couple, lock the man in the car's trunk, and rape the woman.

According to Loaiza, there were paramilitary gangs such as the one led by Silverio Brown, that committed all sorts of crimes and were supported by the FDP.

Loaiza recalled "famous Tali Torres, whom I personally arrested after Torres had killed a Costa Rican woman who worked at a brothel. The woman was found in a distant place with a bullet in her head."

Capt. Loaiza stated: "I investigated that case. The murderer was Tali Torres and I arrested him. He confessed at the Auxiliary Attorney General's Office and, much to my surprise, Torres was released a few months later. [quotation marks as published]

Loaiza asserted that a paramilitaryman, like Tali Torres, was linked to the world of drugs. "Men like him are very well known in the world of crime and they are protected by their friendship with high-ranking militarymen," Loaiza added.

Capt. Loaiza said that the significant increase in the crime-rate over the past few days is worrisome.

Loaiza said that the Pizza Hut located on 50th Street was robbed on 27 February by two armed men who forced the employees to give them of all the restaurant's money, which totaled between 4,000 and 5,000 balboas.

Similarly, Loaiza reported that two men armed with a machine gun and a .38-caliber revolver entered the store Hurtemate Limited and stole 200 balboas in cash.

In addition, four armed men entered the Veracruz Hotel and stole 2,200 balboas in cash from Humberto Uribe Beliz Santos who was having dinner at the hotel at the time. The men also took 830 balboas from the reception desk, 4,150 balboas from the general manager's office, 450 balboas from the hotel's dining area, and the weapons that the hotel security guard had with him.

Loaiza said he is worried about this crime wave, especially because 42 crimes, including larceny, armed robberies, and attacks, were reported on 26 February alone.

According to statistics presented by Loiza with regard to crime during the months of January and February, crime increased considerably in February, despite having fewer days than January.

Asked about what is being done to change the image of the PTJ, taking into account that the people identify it with the former DENI, Loiza answered that the PTJ is creating awareness among its members about the need for a change in their attitude, especially in the sense that "we must work for the people and the community."

Loaiza added: "We now have a great opportunity to do something that many of us wanted to do for a long time, but could not because of the lack of freedom and the limitations imposed on our actions."

Loaiza stated that "some practical measures are being adopted. We are about to select new blood, young men 18-25 years of age, particularly high school graduates, whom we plan to begin training in March with the support of some U.S. institutions, Venezuelan PTJ members, and Costa Rican OIJ [Judicial Investigation Agency] members. [quotation marks as published]

Capt. Loaiza said that the youths will be trained according to the current Panamanian reality and with the idea of preparing a truly technical and scientific police force.

When LA PRENSA asked his opinion about the type of weapons that the PTJ members should carry, Loaiza said that weapons are important, but that the best weapon is man himself.

I believe the Public Force members must identify themselves with their historic responsibility and must be more positive. [no quotation marks as published]

Loaiza said that during his career as an investigator (24 years), he has never shot at a criminal regardless of how dangerous he could have been, "which indicates that weapons are not necessary."

According to Loaiza, the best weapon that members of the Public Force and PTJ can have "is their conviction that they are a police force in charge of protecting people's lives and property."

Newspaper Warns Government To Keep Promises

PA0703035190 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Mar 90 pp 1, 4

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] Going into its third month—and running out of such usual excuses as "we are waiting for U.S. aid" and "we have not been able to do it in such a short period of time"—the new democratic government shows little interest in keeping the unequivocal promises it made to

get anti-militarist Panamanians to vote for them in the past elections. A couple of these promises were the immediate dismantling of the narco-military organizations and, consistent with this action, the punishment of murderers and thieves who had been protected by the military institution. Instead, the government seems to be starting to head in the opposite direction.

Serious doubts arise among the brave civilian fighters, the reporters who dared to defy the opprobrious dictatorship, the low-income sectors who risked their lives to go to the streets to stop the Torrijist totalitarist's satanic goals—later instilled in troops loyal to Noriega—when the new Public Force director himself conceded that his forces are filled with torturers and executioners who previously belonged to the former dictator's cruel Gestapo.

For example, we doubt that the ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] government truly understands that its historic role—which was far from ended when they attained the country's political power—has just begun, along with its unavoidable commitment to build, strengthen, and secure Panamanians' social and economic improvement, and ensure full and total enjoyment of basic guarantees.

With the sincerity and respect that is characteristic of our editorial policy, EL SIGLO has dared—risking being misunderstood in presidential circles—to sound an alert as we are confronted with concrete and unmistakable signs of a resurgence and restructuring of militarism in the public forces.

Publications that served as repugnant bastions of tyranny, spokesmen of the fascist and servile PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], thieves and murderers whose notorious trails lead to numerous attacks against citizens' rights and abuses against public properties, are again acting with intimidating disrespect and threatening attitudes and make us suspect that they plan to reinstall a new regime of force in Panama—as soon as the U.S. Army withdraws to its barracks.

The trust placed by Panamanians in the present political leaders and the hopes that were placed on them on 7 May, have a limit. This limit is the honesty with which they explain what they are doing to get the country to return to peace and stability.

Panamanians need to understand government justifications for the new public forces, the hiring of an extraordinary number of soldiers, even more than what the old narcoregime used to have. We need to know why so many uniformed bums are elegantly held in garrisons while thugs terrorize citizens unchecked. A report on the sensibility of continuing to maintain some "strategic" headquarters and military forts in the interior of the country should be initiated without delay.

It would be healthy to report on why safe-conduct passes are given to murdering paramilitaries and thieves who want to enjoy their looting of the nation's coffers in golden exile. We demand to know why legal offices have not recommended that courts of justice condemn even one of the criminals who murdered, tortured, and abused with incredible cruelty, or even one of white collar criminals who impeded the formation and renovation of state organizations.

The hopes of people, fortunately, have not died, but their trust and the credibility of the public administration has started to dwindle dangerously, even when the government has only been in power for three months. This situation must not continue.

We trust that the Legislative Assembly, installed this week, will be able to instill energy, seriousness, and the authentic feelings of electors to the Executive Branch, so as to clearly mark the path that a democratic state must take to solve the serious problems of country caught up in such a climate of social justice and full freedom.

Argentina

Measures Announced by Economy Minister Enforced

PY0603195190 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Today the package of measures, to complement the economic program and the state reorganization program, that was announced by Economy Minister Erman Gonzalez on 4 March, went into force with the publication of Decree Number 435 in today's issue of the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

The decree consists of 71 articles and it orders the dismantling of 56 secretariats and 80 undersecretariats, the suspension of Banco Hipotecario Nacional [National Mortgage Bank] operations, the reorganization of the Banade [National Development Bank], and the compulsory retirement of public employees who are due to retire within two years.

The Decree also establishes that all official cars must be sold, that the public employees minimum wage will be increased to 450,000 australes, and that all contracts and public works contracted and signed by the government be suspended.

Decree Gives Military Role in Domestic Conflicts

PY0603152890 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 4 Mar 90 p 17

[Text] (NA-DYN)—The Armed Forces will be allowed to intervene in "cases of internal commotion" which endanger "the life, freedom, property or safety of the nation's inhabitants" according to a government decree leaked by the press yesterday.

The decree, published yesterday by CLARIN DAILY, specifies that a special Security Committee will be created with the purpose of "aiding the president in dealing with the crises which may arise." The committee will be made up of the defense and interior ministers, the Armed Forces High Command chief and the state intelligence secretary.

"The president will be able to summon any other authority whom he thinks should participate in the committee's sessions," it adds.

The committee will also be empowered to coordinate joint defence plans with the police and the Armed Forces, as well as draw upon the services of the different entities which make up the national intelligence system.

CLARIN points out that the decree is dated February 26, the day on which President Carlos Menem met with the chiefs of the three forces to discuss "hypotheses of external conflict" together with defence Minister Humberto Romero and Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo.

The first article of the decree sets down the conditions for fighting the activity of armed groups which endanger the life and property of citizens and then adds "as will be the case in any other situation of internal commotion so serious that it poses a threat to the previously mentioned values."

On the other hand, Lower House defence Committee Chairman Miguel Angel Toma (Peronist-Capital) said that the government decree was "still only a rumour" and "solely the responsibility of the newspaper that published it" because "it has not yet been announced officially."

In statements to Radio America, Toma expressed surprise that the government would sign such a decree because "Article 36 of the Constitution already empowers the President, in his condition as commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, to issue whatever orders he considers necessary."

The deputy complained that these "rumours" are sometimes destabilizing and promote "what we all want to avoid, the possibility of a social outburst."

Likewise, Senator Eduardo Menem (Peronist-La Rioja) said he was "not aware" of the existence of the decree because "it has not been brought up in any cabinet meetings and I have not heard any comments about it."

On the other hand, six opposition deputies demanded that the Lower House question Minister Romero on the reasons that motivated the government to authorize the Armed Forces' intervention in internal conflicts.

The bill requesting Romero's questioning was presented by a socialist deputy and five Radicals, but the five legislators took for granted that the entire Radical block, the other opposition blocks and the dissident Peronists will support it in Lower House debate.

If it is approved, Romero will be asked to explain why the government thinks the security forces would be overpowered by a social outburst as well as to justify plans to reform the defence law.

Radical Deputies Ricardo Felgueras and Osvaldo Bisciotti, two of the bill's signators, warned against "doctrines which assign the Armed Forces to tasks other than defending the country's interests."

Furthermore, Bisciotti and Felgueras asked the authorities "to say whether it is true that the defence Ministry has plans for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to set up a shooting range in Patagonia."

In other reactions to the controversial decree, Movement Towards Socialism (MAS) leader Luis Zamora and provincial deputy Silvia Diaz interpreted that "the government is seeking through repression what it is losing in popular support" [as published] while describing the decree in questions as "clandestine and illegal."

Human Rights Under Secretary Resigns

PY0603150490 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2046 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Mar (DYN)— Human Rights Under Secretary Guillermo Frugoni Rey resigned his position today because he disagrees with the decree allowing the Armed Forces to intervene in cases of social conflict and unrest in the country. Frugoni Rey sent President Carlos Menem a letter this afternoon explaining the reasons for his resignation. He then released the text of the letter to the press. Frugoni Rey denied rumors spread by some official spokespersons and made it very clear that his resignation is not related to administrative reorganization which includes the dismantling of secretariats and undersecretariats.

Former Montonero Guerrillas Issue Communique

PY0603221790 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1313 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Mar (NA)—Former guerrillas Roberto Perdia and Fernando Vaca Narvaja have resigned from the leadership of the Revolutionary Peronist (PR) faction (former Montoneros) that is led by Eduardo Firmenich.

In a brief communique, Perdia and Vaca Narvaja, who have both received pardons, said that "following the disagreements that have resulted from the choice of policies and systems of leadership, it has been decided to create several factions."

The communique states that "we are aware that this is a retroactive step" but "the PR members still have to meet their commitments with the people and with the Montonero's project." The communique points out that "all members" of this faction "are responsible for achieving their objectives," which include freeing Eduardo Firmenich.

"This is our government, and we are part of Dr. Menem's government even though we think that policies should be adopted toward a productive revolution with social justice," Vaca and Perdia said.

On 3 March, the PR federal council held a closed-door meeting at 1400 Solis Street. Pablo Unamuno, Mario Montoto, Oscar Bidegain, Fernando Vaca Narvaja, and Roberto Cirilo Perdia attended this meeting.

Colombia

10 People Reportedly Kidnapped by Guerrillas

PA0703014790 Paris AFP in Spanish 2252 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Bogota, 6 Mar (AFP)—The Colombian police have reported that 10 persons, including several politicians, were abducted in Colombia today.

The police added that an agrarian leader, a soldier, a police inspector, and a Liberal Party deputy are among the people abducted by Maoist and pro-Castroite guerrillas and by common criminals.

A police report indicated that guerrillas of the pro-Castroite Army of National Liberation (ELN) kidnapped farm owner Rafael Munoz at El Paso Corregimiento in the northern Cesar Department.

The same guerrilla group abducted rice producer Jose Hernan Osorio at a farm in the town of Aguachita, also in Cesar Department, 600 km north of Bogota.

The Maoist Popular Liberation Army (EPL) abducted Liberal Party Deputy Luis Alfonso Fana and Alvaro Gomez Diaz, director of the state-run Social Security Institute, in Palmitos, a farming region located in the departments of Cordoba and Sucre in northwestern Colombia.

The police report added that soldier Carlos Vejana, Inspector Orlando Mosquera, and businessman Cristobal Alzate Montoya were kidnapped in the town of Santa Rosa in the southwestern Cauca Department.

Roger Marino Cero, who was running for the post of mayor in La Vega, 40 km northwest of Bogota, was also kidnapped.

Police Inspector Celso Invachi, who worked in Simarrona hamlet, Bolivar Municipality, Cauca Department, was the last one to be kidnapped. Invachi was abducted this afternoon.

ELN Reportedly Executing Alleged Army Informants

PA0603154790 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] (Chirleny Urdinola de Montoya), mayor of Tobio Municipality, has reported that the National Liberation Army [ELN] has been executing peasants and other people in Garrapatas Canyon on charges of being Army informants.

The mayor said that the body of a young man, John Jairo Garcia, the driver of a jeep belonging to the firm [name indistinct], was delivered to his family yesterday. Garcia was executed by ELN guerrillas in the place known as La Estrella.

The mayor of La Estrella said the public order situation in her municipality is extremely serious and warned that it will be difficult to hold elections in five corregimientos in her municipality on 11 March because party poll representatives have resigned their positions as a result of persistent death threats from the ELN.

Paraguay

Foreign Minister on Quayle Visit, Other Topics

PY0603182590 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 6 Mar 90 p 10

[Text] President Andres Rodriguez will travel to Asia in June this year according to information released yesterday at Government House. He will probably visit South Korea, Taiwan, and Japan in response to invitations received from the governments of these countries. President Andres Rodriguez and Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana discussed this issue at Government House yesterday.

Rodriguez and Argana met yesterday morning at Government House to iron out certain details of the Paraguayan president's trip to Asia. After the meeting, the foreign minister confirmed that President Rodriguez' trip and other matters were discussed. He explained that "the trip to Asia is tied to circumstantial factors; initially it was set for 20 May and then postponed to 10 October. It now seems that this trip will take place around mid-June," said Argana.

The foreign minister also reported that Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, and Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas are expected in Asuncion on 13 March.

The visiting dignitaries will stop over at the Silvio Pettirossi International Airport where they will meet President Rodriguez. The four presidents will then travel to Brasilia to attend Fernando Collor de Mello's presidential inauguration on 15 March.

Rodriguez will attend another summit this weekend, this time in Chile where he will attend the presidential inauguration of Patricio Aylwin on 11 March. President Rodriguez will meet there with his Latin American colleagues, with Spanish President Felipe Gonzalez, and with other foreign dignitaries. The president will probably travel to Chile on 10 March.

U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle is scheduled to arrive in Paraguay on 12 March. He will come to meet with Rodriguez and will stay until the next day.

Foreign Minister Argana indicated that "Paraguay will address subjects that interest us, including technical aid, economic aid, and financial advice."

He emphasized that "we believe that Quayle may raise the Panama issue and the drug-trafficking issue. I am just guessing because the agenda of the visit is open."

Minister Argana explained yesterday that "Paraguay is not on the U.S. Department of State's drug trafficking blacklist." He confirmed that he discussed this with President Rodriguez yesterday.

"We talked about the very long Department of State report we received on 2 March. I have had it translated, and I brought it to the president today. According to this report, Paraguay is in good shape and is not on the blacklist," Argana emphasized. He added that Paraguay "is considered to be cooperating with the struggle against drug trafficking."

The foreign minister said that another subject discussed with the president was the possibility that toxic and industrial waste may have been shipped into Paraguay. He explained that, according to the FRG Embassy in Asuncion, "not one gram of toxic waste has left the FRG for Paraguay."

He added: "One hundred and thirty tons of toxic material were seized in Bremen, FRG, but none has been shipped."

He concluded by saying that "the names of several U.S. firms were mentioned in connection with this deal but nobody has said that the waste was en route to Paraguay."

Struggle Over Party Presidency Continues

PY0603160490 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 6 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Yesterday Juan Ramon Chaves, who recently resigned as president of the Colorado Party Executive Board, warned that if no agreement is reached on his successor, he will reinstate himself as president of the executive board. Chaves made this statement to several precinct presidents of the Colorado Party who went to his residence to tell him that they would not accept any decision not based on consensus. The leaders of the rank and file organizations warned that to vote on the new president "could certainly lead to a definitive schism within the party."

The representatives of Colorado Party factions met yesterday to find a way out of the crisis but failed to reach an agreement. Edgar L. Ynsfran's proposal to set up a collegium with the three vice presidents of the Colorado Party Executive Board was rejected. Blas N. Riquelme [third vice president of the Colorado Party Executive Board] is still the candidate for the Democratic Faction while Dionisio Gonzalez Torres [minister of education] is the candidate from the Orthodox Faction.

Venezuela

Panama's Solis Palma Leaves Venezuelan Embassy

PA0603181390 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1701 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Caracas, 6 Mar (EFE)—The Venezuelan Government announced in Caracas today that former Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma "voluntarily" left the Venezuelan Embassy in Panama, where he had been a guest since the U.S. military invasion on 20 December.

The former president had requested political asylum from Venezuelan authorities, but the government of President Carlos Andres Perez had issued no ruling on the subject.

Spokesmen for the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry, who informed EFE of Solis Palma's departure from the diplomatic mission, declined to say whether the Panamanian politician will remain in his country or travel to some other Latin American nation.

Student Protest in Acarigua; Damage, No Injuries

PA0703022090 Paris AFP in Spanish 0121 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Acarigua, Venezuela, 6 Mar (AFP)—The Innac [National Information] local news service has reported that today's student unrest in Acarigua, 300 km to the southeast of Caracas, resulted in the detention of 40 students and attacks on 20 businesses, six cars, and two buses.

According to the source, the disturbances erupted when the police repressed a student demonstration, kicking several high-schoolers, which brought about the protest of Mayor Tatiana de Nino.

Following her protest the mayor was not allowed entrance to the municipal council, according to her own report. Groups of students then entered the municipal council and were shot at by police, who broke up the protest.

Innac did not report any personal injuries.

The municipal council agreed to request that the Legislative Assembly summon Acarigua Police Commander Colonel Oscar Marquez to answer for police excesses.